

THE MORONGO BASIN

ITS ROOTS AND ITS BRANCHES

MORONGO VALLEY • YUCCA VALLEY • LANDERS
JOSHUA TREE • TWENTYNINE PALMS





One of the Morongo Basins beautiful views. A place for contemplation in the natural beauty of the desert. Standing in the above photo is the legendary Yucca Valley Frank. -

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This is the fourth book in a series dealing with the History and background of the Morongo Basin. There are four major areas of development. Starting with Morongo Valley in the west end of the basin we traverse east to Yucca Valley - then north to Landers. Further east there is Joshua Tree, and Twenty-Nine Palms, the Basins' first incorporated city. Each of the four areas is justifiably provincial. It really amounts to community pride, and as this volume will show, all of the Communities have reason to be proud of their towns. This is especially true when we see the parallel course of development that took place in the past half century. As we've stated before, the pioneer spirit needed to bring civilization to this part of the Desert was present everywhere in the Basin. In our opinion, it still exists in many ways.

The Joshua Tree National Monument is a part of the entire Basin, and itself evokes a certain amount of provincialism. Each town in some way laying claim to being a "Gateway Community." That is as it should be. We are all proud of being so close to one of the Nations most beautiful, and heavily used National Monuments. A one day trip up to the Monument will give one a taste of what life must have been like in the Basins early years. There is little development, and water is not easy to find. In the Monument, camping, and roughing it is a way of life. As it was in the Basin in its formative years. We all identify with the Monument because it has been such an integral part of the Basin, right from the beginning.

As previous volumes have shown, we did not have an easy start. What we now take for granted as necessities were, without exception, considered luxuries, years ago. Every time we feel that we've conveyed the message, new information, and/or photographs come to light, and as the saying goes, "we're off and running" again. This volume will add to the information already published. We hope you find this book as informative and entertaining as the previous three volumes. Whatever the result, it was never our intent to offend or slight. If for any reason this has occurred we offer our abject apology, and pledge to do better in the future.

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By Joan Wilson & Bob Stephenson
Yucca Valley, California USA

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The publisher offers heartfelt thanks to the Hi-Desert Star and the Desert Trail for their kind assistance in publishing this volume. We specifically thank Janette Rote and Julie Fulcher for their help in typesetting although Jerry Wright is covered elsewhere in the book, we feel his help demands our special thanks.

ABOUT OUR COVER PHOTOGRAPHER



BOB LEATHERMAN

Bob Leatherman FPSA. Fellow of the photographic society of America. Also received the nature divisions medal, the highest award in nature divisions PSA division.

Have given over 500 lectures on nature and nature photography to schools, service clubs, camera clubs, PSA conventions and PSA roundups. Have over the years exhibited photographs in many photo salons in many countries of the world and the USA.

Have composed a number of articles on nature and nature photography for publications. Took my first pictures 70 years ago when I was 7 years old and my first nature picture at 15 years of age.

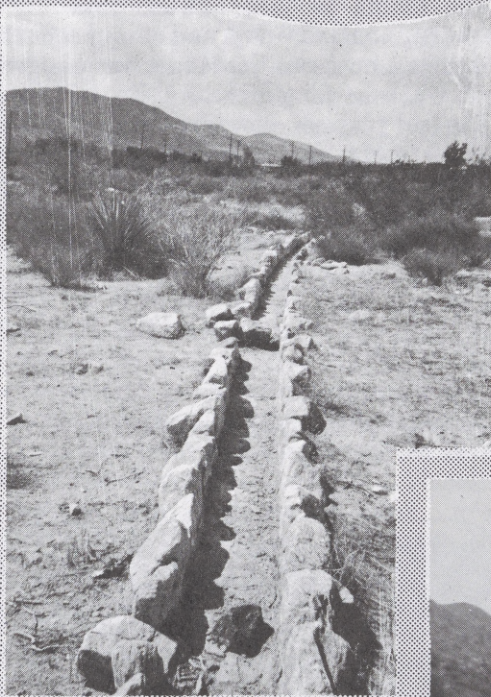
Have spent a lifetime studying nature in all fields of natural history in my library and in the field.

My favorite part of photography is night photography and working in my photo lab creating finished prints and color transparencies.



Left: Little Morongo 1907, Camp Tom Pierce Mine.
L to R Lottie Brown, Ernest Brown, Little Ernest & Tom Pierce.

1952 Christmas, Edna Lanning, Evelyn Smith, Sandra Smith.



Rock ditch built for water by Mr. Hicks
from 1916 to 1920.

MORONGO VALLEY



Yucca Grade looking toward Morongo Valley - Oct. 1952.

From the beginning of this century visitors have enjoyed the secluded shade and cool waters of the Big and Little Morongos. The Morongo Lodge evolved sometime during the Twenties from the need for a place to accommodate "lungers." In the early twenties Mr. Geils' Morongo Inn was built of native rock. A few years later for the same reason, the Livingston Guest Ranch grew up along the southern hills, started in 1924, by Frank Livingston, his wife, Clara, and their small son, Frank, Jr. Frank and his brother, Al, worked at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, and added to the buildings of the popular guest ranch in Morongo as time allowed. In the 1930's, Sherman Shady Springs in the Big Morongo Canyon began a long and colorful history of hunting parties, garden produce and city guests. Back in the dry Morongo was Hofstetter's Canyon House. After the road was blacktopped in 1935, Chandler and Mary White laid plans for their roadrunner Trailer Village, which has since become the Shangri La for many senior citizens during the winter months and the permanent home of desert lovers.

Near the Post Office is the mobile Manor Trailer Park developed in the 1950's by Lillie and Francis Callahan. The Golden Age Club building was also built in the '50's by a group of senior citizens, and here the regular Chamber of Commerce breakfasts are held as well as the Wednesday night card parties and other social events. An Art Colony displays local paintings in the Covington Park buildings where they serve free coffee to guests. In the same building that houses the new fire trucks is the "smallest library in the largest county." Tucked away at the southern extremity of the Little Morongo Canyon are three private

lakes belonging to the McKinney Ranch. The elder McKinney homesteaded there in 1912. He was a well driller and well locator by trade. The McKinney children attended the first school in the area and through the years the McKinney family has developed into a clan who meet at the ranch every year for a barbecue reunion where new in-laws and additional babies are welcomed.

The most recent enterprise in Morongo Valley is the attractive Coin and Stamp Shop, opened February 7, 1971, by Delphia and Emory Tipton. The Tiptons have four sons. The oldest came to Morongo as a guest of Elvira Clift and her family who live on North Star Trail. He could hardly wait until he was old enough to file on a five-acre claim nearby and build a cabin of his own. Before he could prove up on the claim he joined the armed forces and Mama finished out his time on the tract. Another son had a coin and stamp collection which became a business that Mama was obliged to take over when he joined the Air Force. Delphia Tipton has had years of experience in an exclusive Hollywood camera shop. Mr. Tipton is a builder who expects to retire some day and help his wife run their new Coin and Stamp center in their adopted community of Morongo Valley. ●

Barbara and Georgene Hicks gathering firewood during the winter of 1939.



Circa 1935-Reservoir-swimming pool in back of Hicks house on Twentynine Palms Highway, at the foot of Yucca Hill.

Barbara Hicks Hosteter



Morongo Valley Library

Many years have "long gone" since Morongo Valley was blessed with a county library. But time goes back beyond those "long gone" years to one of our earlier intrepid ladies, a true pioneer in the affairs of Morongo Valley, when it was hardly more than a tiny hamlet by the side of the road. It was then that Maxine Grotzenburg ventured on the scene to create - among many other civic accomplishments - the first library in the valley, located on what was then the Crawford Ranch, and incidentally the first windmill in the area.

Maxine stocked her own library, and even delivered books to folks in the valley unable to venture that far from their homes. What Maxine truly created - in her own words - was "The smallest library in the largest county in the United States, The Morongo Library."

Here's where the San Bernardino county came into the picture, and rightly so, as the need for good reading material became a pressing necessity, especially when the children of the Morongo Valley Elementary school came into being. The library was efficiently run by Marjorie Crow, well known to the entire valley for her dedication to the dispensing of knowledge through the medium of good books. Every Friday morning the children were bussed from the school, and for an hour the library was abuzz with children's voices as they picked out their books for the week.

Suddenly the library was arbitrarily closed by the county through lack of funds, or so it was said. Letters and complaints and even pleadings to no avail.

Years later - after the Morongo Valley Community Building came into service, another highly dedicated lady - Margaret Karcher - paid a visit to Edith Nelson, Edith Nelson was out for a while, but now she is back by popular acclaim, Secretary-Manager of the Community Services District, to request the use of a small unused room within the community building, for the express purpose of establishing a bona fide library for Morongo Valley. Knowing something of the literary and educational background of Margaret Karcher in many fields of professional endeavor, Edith Nelson readily agreed to the use of the room, rent free, but no funds available for book-shelves, or other equipment necessary to run a library.

Margaret Karcher went to work with a vengeance! And before long Morongo Valley was presented with a superb library, and on May 1, 1980, she was presented with a plaque from the CSD, for establishing a free public library. Verily, the tiny library is stocked with the finest array of literary master-pieces I have yet to see in such meager quarters.

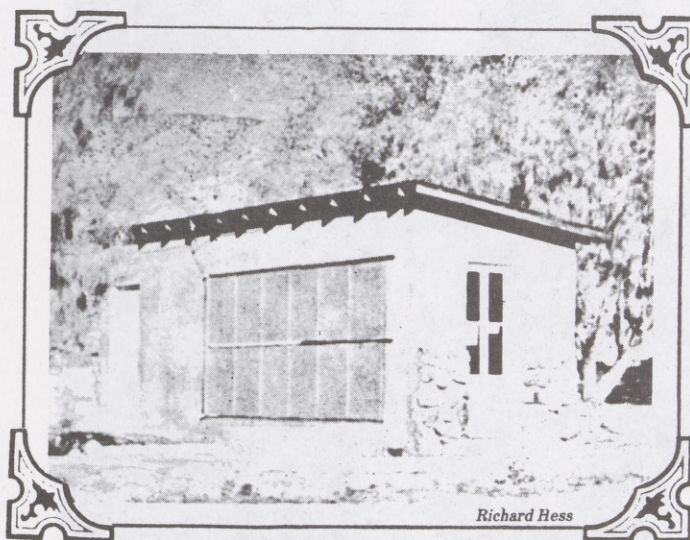


Elwyn Pollock

Morongo Valley First Library

Margaret Karcher has received more than congratulations: honored by a plaque presented by the Soroptimist International of Yucca Valley, March 20, 1985, and a certificate of Award, presented by the Golden Age Club, in 1984, by the Grange of Washington, D.C., representing their highest honor.

Margaret Karcher is a university graduate with a BA in History; extensive library experience at UCLA, and Cal. State University, Northridge, California. All very much in order for creating - out of the void - one of our greatest needs: A library, vital to the community of Morongo Valley. ●



Richard Hess

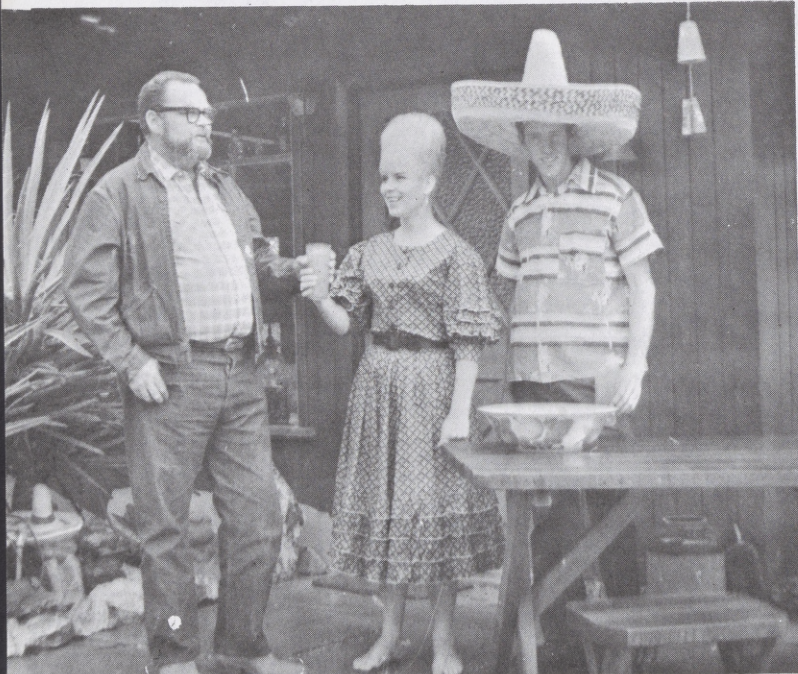
Smallest Library in the Largest County in the United States.
The Morongo Library. 1948

Penny's Talk of the Town

When you walk into THE TALK OF THE TOWN you are faced with a sudden look into history dating from the 19th century as it fades into the early 20th. The first thing that strikes the newcomer is the decor: The walls are not covered with off-color murals, they are covered with nostalgia, with the memorabilia of a forgotten era of Morongo Valley. Penny Crotsenburg — owner, operator, and cook supreme, of the TALK OF THE TOWN, became the “art” collector of the ancient and the antique, a veritable western museum of household and barnyard paraphernalia that was vital to the operation of by-gone days of self-sustaining ranches and farms. It would take unavailable space to list all the interesting items that hang on the walls — a number of pieces that ring with authenticity: old kerosene lanterns of the turn of the century, a scythe and sickle, a saddle, a bridle and bit, a fine stainless steel pressure cooker of the 1890s, Auto Club mileage signs made in July, 1916, and a STOP sign of the 20s, the STOP filled with reflecting glass beads; a variety of saws including a 4 ft. tree saw and a fine specimen of a buck saw. There is a hay hook, a branding iron, a horse collar fitted with a looking glass! Numerous Indian baskets, bamboo dusters, old desert water bags, turn of the century Coca-Cola ads showing bottles of Coke at 5 cents, other

L to R - Bill Browning, Penny Crotsenburg, Tony Crotsenburg.

Talk of the Town M.V.



Talk of the Town M.V.

June 28-29, 1969 L to R Earl McCracken, Judy Wood, Chris Virden, June McCracken.

large Coca-Cola pictures sporting beautiful women of the Duncan sisters era, and the list goes on ad infinitum. These are rare artifacts, precious in their personal, as well as in their intrinsic value, while offering the unusual for interesting conversation.

But we have yet to talk about the Coffee Shop itself. So next time while driving through Morongo Valley with a yen for a “burger,” instead of waiting until you arrive at Yucca Valley’s oasis of fast-food places, stop at Penny’s TALK OF THE TOWN a preferred stop for your breakfast or lunch break — from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. An interesting side wall panel is literally covered with hanging cups — some 150 at late count (including yours truly) — individually initialed — that enjoy an early morning indulgence by their owners; another integral part of the Penny aura of distinction.

Still another distinctive element in the Penny makeup: her personal dedication to the needs of the community. When that need calls for action — especially if it's food — Penny is on-the-spot with the need at hand. In fact, there does not exist a civic organization, a community project or service in Morongo Valley that has not been the recipient of the good will of Penny Crotsenburg. Whether it is food from the TALK OF THE TOWN for a needy project like the Golden Age Club, or other numerous good will gestures, Penny is there to help. It is an innate caring attitude that makes Penny the rare individual she is, and oftentimes, when not even a handshake or a "Thank You" is forthcoming, the hurt goes deep. It is not — for the most part — that people do not care or appreciate; it seems to be a basic attitude of accepting and just taking things for granted, like most of us do in our daily lives. It is not so difficult to say "Thank You." It makes the difference. The other day I noticed a "Community Citizens Award" — tacked up in the Coffee Shop — presented to M.V. Lions Club in recognition of "outstanding service to the community and mankind." It would be a fitting gesture of the city of Morongo Valley, i.e., the CSD, to render such an acknowledgement to the TALK OF THE TOWN in the person of Penny Crotsenburg. This would warrant an all-around "Thank You."●



Talk of the Town M.V.

1969 Kowhand Capers - L to R, Johnny Woods, June McCracken, & Earl McCracken.

Footnotes To History

MORONGO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MET THURSDAY EVENING

July 14, 1948

The Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce, at its meeting last Thursday evening, passed a motion to complete the installation of a large fire siren, to be located in the center of the village. The chamber is also sponsoring bumper cards for cars on which is printed in large letters, "MORONGO VALLEY — CREAM OF THE DESERT" ... Many of the cards are already in use.

Charles Watkins, insurance man of Twentynine Palms and Yucca Village, gave an interesting talk about what the new Baseline highway will mean to this entire area. Mr. Secrest and Mr. Watkins both joined the Chamber of Commerce. ●

MORONGO VALLEY July 14, 1948

MORONGO TO HAVE OWN FIRE SIREN

A new fire siren has been ordered for Morongo and it is expected to be delivered soon. Subscriptions were taken and the people of this community responded wholeheartedly. The committee, members of the Chamber of Commerce, wish to thank everyone for their ready response. The next project will be to secure a fire engine. Everyone feels a greater degree of safety with the coming of the siren, and with the Forest Service (State) truck stationed in the valley. ●



Morongo Valley Lodge, Now Valley Ho.

Walter Hubbard



Barbara Hicks Hosteter

Fallen Hicks, George Hicks & Neil Williams -
Circa 1939.



Barbara Hicks Hosteter

Easter, 1939 L to R. Georgene Hicks, Barbara Hicks, Cathrine Hicks, Richard Schulte, Ethelyn Hicks Schulte, George Hicks, Allen Hicks.

Back Row L to R Allen Hicks Chas. Hostetter, Willie Meyers, Richard Schulte. Front Row L to R Beatrice Hicks, Barbara Williams, Catherine Williams, Georgene Myers & Ethelyn Schulte.

Barbara Hicks Hosteter



Morongo Valley PH



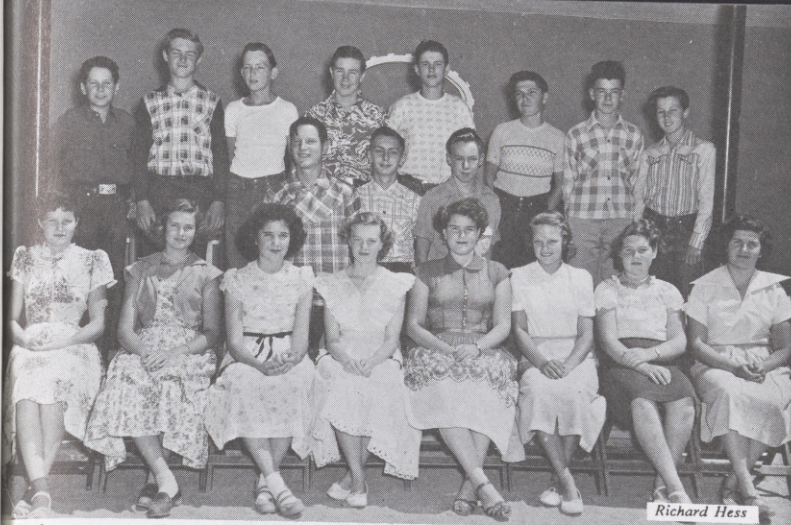
Walter Hubbard

January 1955 - Looking northwest from the west end of Morongo Valley - Note snow on the mountains.

Easter 1939 - at Hicks Ranch - Barbara Williams, Jack Topping, Geo. Hicks, Pearl Rush, Cathrine Williams, Georgene Myers, Dale Rush & Bob Rutherford.

Barbara Hicks Hosteter





L-R front row - Pat Scott, Sharon Sales, Mildred Bayes, Dorothy Duval, Mary Hardesty, AnnaLee Beard, Opal Stephenson, and Frances Ash. L-R top row - LeRoy Kee, David Young, Ross Le Fever, Fred Tunstall, Bob Hobgood, Bill McCracken, Richard Hess, and Billy Brown.



Barbara Hicks Hosteter

Mr. & Mrs. Williams, Geo. Hicks, Ethelyne Schulte Georgene Myers, Dick Schulte & Allen Hicks - Christmas 1938.

ey Photo Notes



Barbara Hicks Hosteter

The original Hicks Ranch built in 1924.



Paul Goakes

King & Queen of Morongo Valley Mr. & Mrs. Paul Goakes



Walter Hubbard

One of Morongo Valleys Early Business'.

George Hicks unloading Morongo Grown Alfalfa.

Barbara Hicks Hosteter



Walter Hubbard

The Big Snow of 1957.



The family soon moved to Germany where they lived in Flensburg, just north of Hamburg. Rosa attended college and subsequently went into government service, where she worked for 31 years. In those years the Post Office contained not only postal service, but a telephone and telegraph office, installation and accounting offices, and general statistics, still a monopoly in Germany.

Rosa studied piano and voice and for years sang in the city choir and light opera. Bach and Handel cantatas were popular and Rosa often took the solo parts. It was often said that she had a voice similar to that of Madam Schumann-Heink, well known throughout Europe and America.

We know how Rosa arrived in Morongo Valley, and it was not long before she was singing, for example, in the Free Evangelical Church in Yucca Valley.

At THE HITCHING POST she played the piano and made those delicious corned beef sandwiches. At that time — during the 1950's — it was the only eating and drinking rendezvous in this part of the Hi-Desert, and it was also a time when people were flooding into the area with Geiger Counters searching for Uranium. It's a question of whether it was the lure of the Hitching Post or the sweep of the geiger counters — or both — that attracted so many people to our beautiful valley.

Rosa sold the house and bar in 1960 and immediately went into Social Service, which had been a long consuming desire. She became a volunteer for the "Senior Affairs Commission" for the County, and on the 7th of May, 1985, received the "Certificate of Commendation" from San Ber-

nardino County. Her calling card reads: "ROSA TERP - Office on Aging — Senior information and Referral. A circle of people who care." Rosa also helped to run the Golden Age Club with Dee Rawson before the County cut the funds for nutrition.

Dedicated to the service of those in need, Rosa says that she is "very happy that fate brought me to California, where people are very helpful, and loving." Incidentally, Rosa gained her citizenship in 1957.

Congratulations Rosa: you have indeed paid well, and highly worthy of that most envied possession! ●

The Terps behind their bar circa 1950.



Morongo Valley Little Theatre

Advertisers Supporters

Morongo Valley Service
(Shell)
Morongo Market
Arnold Hardware and
Plumbing Supply
Jimmy Gibb's Cafe
A.H. Weir
Cyril Millington
Morongo Lodge
H.M. Hess
Pioneer Realtor
Morongo Inn



1950 "Players"

Goldie Goodwin

Woody Vance

Joe Visser

Emma M. Clay

Harry Walters

Bernard Arnold

Marion Weir

Irene Tunstall

Assistant Director

Properties

Morongo Valley Womans Club

T

Gwen Adams

he humble beginning of the Women's Club of Morongo Valley, California, began on October 10, 1944, in the home of Mrs. Valentine McCracken. Five ladies met that day and formed a club known as the Morongo Valley Social Club. Within a year the very small membership of 5 grew to a number of 67. All who joined the first year became charter members. The first elected officers were Mrs. Florence Mays, President; Mrs. Emeline Scott, Vice-President; Mrs. Rosella Hess, Secretary; and Mrs. Dorothy Munson, Ways and Means Chairman.

The original By-laws were revised in 1945 to read that the club would meet on the first Thursday of each month, and again in 1946, stating that election of officers would be held once a year. These revisions still stand today. Only a few slight changes have been made since that time. A copy of the club By-laws is on file with the District 21 Parliamentarian.

This building, which is now our clubhouse, has a real "Old West" background. It was begun in 1946 as a project of the Chamber of Commerce and built with a pioneering spirit. The Chamber had become concerned because there was no building large enough for public meetings, nor was there a proper school. The Chamber had been deeded an acre of land by longtime resident, Mrs. Myrtle Crawford, but the cost of a building seemed insurmountable.

Luckily, fate stepped in at this point and the Colorado River Aqueduct through Devil's Garden, the area just west of what is now known as highways 62 and Interstate 10, was completed at about that time. Lumber that had been used as concrete forms was strewn along many miles of the desert, and it was rumored that it could be had for the asking. Fortunately, for the Chamber, the person to ask was no where to be found and many, otherwise honest, hardworking, citizens, could be seen transporting this procured treasure to the building site in Morongo Valley. Thus, with donated work, from such a grubby stake a jewel emerged and what was called the "Community Hall" came into being.

The women of the valley took an active part in the venture. They pulled nails, cooked and fed the men, cleaned the building when it was finished and helped equip it with desks and other supplies needed to start a school. The doors were opened to the pupils on March 15, 1948. The first club meeting the women held in this building was on April 1, 1948.

In 1963 the Chamber of Commerce deeded this property to the Morongo Social Club. The word

"Social" was deleted from the club's title and it officially became the Morongo Valley Women's Club. When the constitution was revised on March 2, 1967, the title was once again changed, this time to Women's Club of Morongo Valley, also known as Federated Women's Club of Morongo Valley.

The club was first federated in September 1952, but due to dwindling attendance, withdrew from federation in May, 1955. However, because of the club's good standing at the time of withdrawal, it was promptly re-instated, upon application, on February 7, 1968. Our club was the 32nd club to join the San Bernardino District 21. Our club colors are blue and gold; our flower is Desert Daisy. The club is an incorporated non-profit organization.

Throughout the years we have been able to branch out into many new fields of interest. We are active in most all federated projects and have many of our own. They are too numerous to mention all of them, but a few include sponsoring a Korean orphan girl through the Christian Children's Foundation; aiding the Junior Blind; hosting card parties, Chamber and private luncheons; making many charitable cash donations; collecting food and clothing for the needy; having a Prayer Chain for any and all who desire it; and supporting many civic, state and governmental endeavors. Our Sewing, Arts and Crafts section works steadily, making articles for the bazaars, flea markets, and raffles we hold.

Although our club is small, we hold many awards, District, State and Civic. Mrs. Ralph Shideler has been elected President for the 1981-82 term. ●

Our present membership of 72 is a dedicated group working toward some very fine goals. We work with the knowledge that when we send out love and understanding, it comes back to us in kind. That is our reward.

MORONGO VALLEY WOMEN'S CLUB PAST PRESIDENTS

1967/69 Esther Selemeyer (deceased)
1969/71 Floy Grundman (Life member)
1971/73 Dorothy Taylor
1973/75 Evelyn Nash (deceased)
1975/77 Alice Buell
1977/80 Alice Perry
1980/81 Nancy Slusher/Virginia Logsdon
1981/84 Nellie Mae Shideler (Life member)
1984/85 Ruth Robbins

(Federated in 1968)

The Putmans of Morongo Valley

LUCILLE PUTMAN

My husband, Bill and I came to Morongo Valley for the first time in 1947. We lived and worked in Palm Springs and, like many others, were looking for a Government 5 Acre Tract. But instead, we bought a little home in town from Harry Hess, Subdivider. I believe it was in the late 1930's that Harry Hess decided to pitch his tent and explore the possibilities of land development in the mysterious Valley of Many Waters. Could he have heard the lingering whispers of the Indians who had lived here so long ago and they beckoned him to stay? I would like to think so.

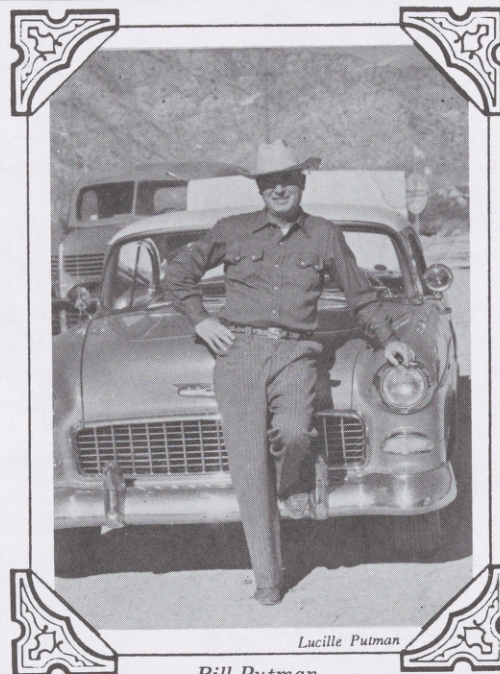
We came up on weekends and vacation times, improved our home and "Put" worked as a Real Estate Salesman for Ray Smith, Broker and Developer. That was the beginning of the Putmans getting into the Real Estate business. By 1955 we had built our office on the highway and "Put," Lucille and young Bill had become permanent residents.

Life was not easy. It was a constant struggle and always demanding but the tremendous challenges were exciting, exhilarating and rewarding. It was the extraordinary community spirit, fine cooperation and pure joy of working together meeting the challenges that created the heart and

Lucille Putman



Lucille Putman



Bill Putman

beginning of Morongo Valley. In between the hard work, the community affairs and the construction, we had some outrageously happy times. It was fun and we loved it. Such wonderful people. There were the good times, the bad times and the tragic ones and some of it will never be told.

People came to the hi-desert in the 1950's and 1960's from every direction. Some were looking for weekend and vacation homes or for permanent retirement. Others came for health reasons or just for the fun of it. The early Pioneers and those who later came to stay were adventuresome and spirited. They envisioned the place where they wanted to live until they died.

Bill Putman passed away in 1960 and Lucille carried on with the Real Estate business until the late 1970's. She then enthusiastically took up retirement. A perfect time to read and learn and search. An insatiable desire come true, or almost. ●

Putmans Real Estate Office Circa 1955.



Morongo Valley Art Colony

BY ELWYN POLLOCK

While American Art has flourished almost since its inception some 300 years ago, we have also witnessed an influx of artists from around the world, adding their art to the already bounteous contributions of many great artists, indigenous to the very soil of the American land. And we have continued to be blessed with other talents to add to a growing mine of artists and their work, making America a melting pot of some of the best art forms anywhere.

Hildegard Metzger is a case in point, coming from Bavaria to Morongo Valley in the 1960's, when on Feb. 20, 1969, she founded the Art Colony and became its first president.

From this early beginning under Hildegard's direction and management, the colony grew perceptibly into the picture gallery we know today. One may visit the Art Colony on any Sunday afternoon, and enjoy a great diversity of art forms, from excellent still-life, acrylic, abstract, landscape, portraiture, plus one particular mountain forest scene with running stream, by the Colony's current secretary, Dorothy Taylor, one of the top showings in the gallery. Dorothy specializes in oils, pastels, forest & stream. Still life is well represented by Bessie Bresford, while Esther Hildner is the artist of the month. Current artists are Jean Nueller, Lois Vilott, and Betty McLeod. Angela Welch is the abstract artist, taking first prize for a brilliant piece that holds one's gaze as a study in abstract with a fleeting nuance of impressionism.

Located in the center of the Art gallery, an attention getter, is a beautiful white bust of Hildegard Metzger, set on an imposing pedestal, with a striking study in oil above the bust, depicting Hildegard's home town in Bavaria, Germany, painted with her own hand with a certain nostalgic appeal that reminds one of Heidelberg, or the gingerbread town on Nuremberg. (The lovely bust of Hildegard was sculptured by Joseph Hejbal of Desert Hot Springs).

Elwyn Pollock passed away June 20, 1989. Mr. Pollock was a long time resident of Morongo Valley. He contributed much to Book III of this series, and was, at one time, a regular contributor to the Hi-Desert Star. He will be missed!

There came the time when Hildegard sensed the approach of the end of her days, and she was drawn back to that lovely Bavarian village, to be there when time beckoned, to be laid to rest in the sacred soil of her ancestors. Having had the privilege of knowing this wonderful lady, these somber words can be accepted as authentic.

Today the Art Colony of Morongo Valley is a well-run gallery, thriving through the contributions of its local artists, and therefore an asset to the Hi-Desert community. ●

Hildegard Metzger



WOMEN'S SOCIAL CLUB

The Women of Morongo valley met at the home of Mrs. H.M. Hess Thursday afternoon and formed a Woman's Social Club. They plan on having some good times in the Valley, besides doing some good work in connection with the Morongo Improvement association on the new park, which was donated to the clubs jointly by Mr. and Mrs. Hess.

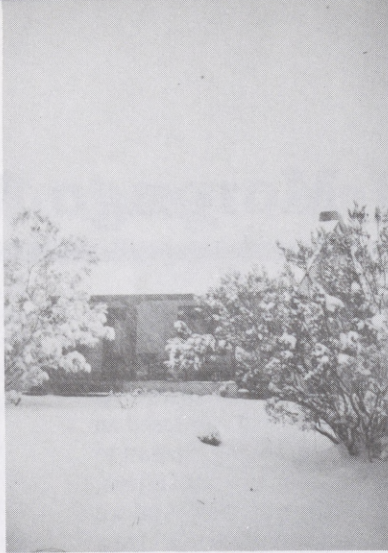
According to the plans of the Woman's club all money raised will be used to improve the park and eventually erect a clubhouse, tennis court, etc.

Every woman in the Valley and also all women who have purchased property in this Valley, are invited and urged to join the club and enjoy the honor of becoming a charter member. Election of officers will be announced next week.

The ladies have already started work on a bazaar for the latter part of November. They also plan a community Christmas tree. Many have already mailed in their membership fees, and considerable interest is being shown in the new venture. ●



1947-1948 Morongo Valley Sunday School - Lester Bobo, Milford Weise, Mr. Scott, Opal Bobo, Mrs. McCracken, Thena Bobo, Sue McCracken, Evelyn Smith, Pat Scott, Pat Holeman, Patsy De Land, Charlotte McCracken, Darla Bobo, Ronnie Smith, Neil Mackenzike, Jeannie Mackenzie, HaNk, Edna Lanning, David McCracken.



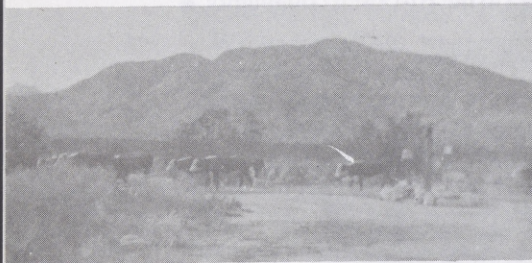
Barbara Hicks Hosteter

Hicks Ranch House at foot of Yucca Hill - 1939.



Harry Hess

Richard Hess, age 3 with father, Harry Hess circa 1942.



Cattle Drive - 1946

Evelyn Smith

Morongo Valley Photo Notes



Mrs. Florence Goakes.

Paul Goakes



1907 - Little Morongo - Tom Pierce Mine, figure is little Ernest.



Paul Goakes

Guess Who? Paul Goakes right side, and his brother Harry.

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REAL ESTATE
LISTINGS WANTED
GEN.BLDG. INFORMATION
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LAND CLEARING
MORONGO'S
BIGGEST
BOOSTER

Georgene, Mr. Hicks, Barbara, Mr. Snowman, Catharine & Neil Williams. (1938)

Barbara Hicks Hosteter



Alice Buell

1937 - Canyon House in Morongo



1949 - The Big Snow. Looking across 29 Palms Highway from Al Bickers gas station.

Evelyn Smith



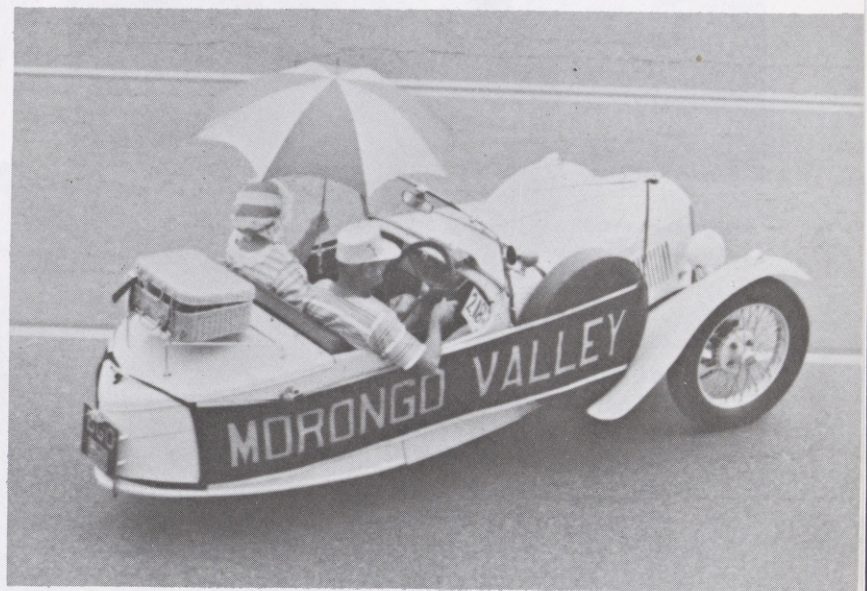
Evelyn Smith

Christmas 1952. Edna Lanning, Evelyn Smith, Sandra Smith.



Evelyn Smith

First Fiesta Queen - Morongo Lodge, May 30, 1953. l to r Barbara Duncan, Pat Scott, Dee Dee Arnold, Sandra Smith, Jimmilyn Apperson.



Obviously, Morongo Valley folk are a very creative lot.

1947 - Looking across Morongo Valley to Shermans Canyon.

Evelyn Smith



1953 - Easter Sunrise Service

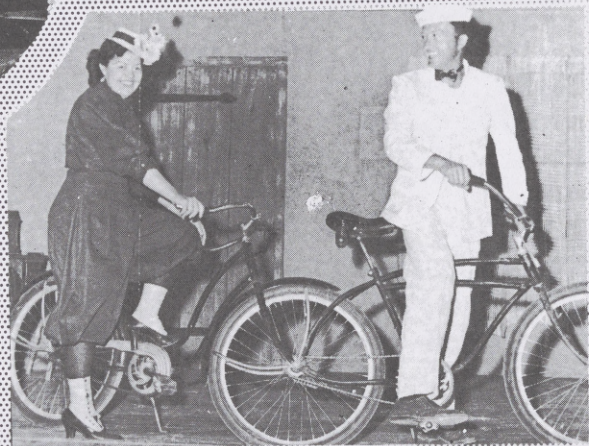


Antone Martin Park



Yucca Valley

Charlie & John Arch 1954 "He Ain't Done Right By Nell"



1954 - Yucca Valley Rangers at Sunrise Service. Antone Martin Memorial Park



The Saga of Yucca Valley

As one views Yucca Valley today, it is a bit difficult to realize that a mere handful of early settlers founded this fast growing young town. Our ultra-modern Real Estate offices are subdividing some of those early homesteads into very creditable homesites and business districts.

There are quite a number of second generation people who can easily remember the WHEN days against this present transformation. I have spoken to a number of them, and even yet they are a two camp group. Those who regret the passing of the good old days; and those who welcome the modern conveniences.

A glimpse into the lives of those early settlers may be of interest to the present newcomers. You know, you are a newcomer if you have been here less than seven years!

We all know the Indians were here first. Several tribes of them. Their marks of occupancy are proven by various campsites. Bits of broken pottery and some in still usable condition are to be found yet. Also by their hieroglyphics found in several places in this district. What seems odd, is that they left more land marks than the white man, who has left, mainly heirs.

One of the first white families to settle in this district, was Mark (Chuck) Warren of San Bernardino. In 1881 he brought his cattle to the Valley. Then an unnamed open rangeland. Here, he chose a site protected from the winds by the hills to build a wooden cabin and dig a well to water his cattle. Today one knows this site as Doctor Bendall's place. The airstrip covers the old cattle trails that led to Warren's Well.

Chuck Warren put several of his oldest sons to work as cowboys while he looked further for a spot to build a family home for his brood of nine children. The spot chosen was in Morongo Valley. That place is known today as Covington ranch.

Here he built a two storied adobe house. Planted crops, garden and orchard, all plentifully watered by his open creek. The ranch soon became a public stage stop, for teamsters hauling supplies to the mines in the Joshua Tree Monument. One and all travelers were welcomed to sit and rest a spell. It was Mark Warren's avid love for the game of chuck-a-luck that earned him his lasting nickname, of CHUCK.

One of the first teamsters Charles Reche found Frances Warren the most attractive person on the ranch and soon married her. Thereby starting the present day Reche family, which was Kerri Lark Reche, the fifth generation of old Chuck Warren. Herself, desert born and living right here. Before we leave Chuck Warren, it is noteworthy to mention his two last children. Ed and Lela were born in Morongo on the family ranch in 1889 and 1892 respectively. Perhaps the first white children born here.

In April 1910, Joseph Herd, left Fullerton with his wife and children in a covered wagon. Nine days after they pulled into the Warren sage-ranch in Morongo Valley.



Jessie Kerr

Captain Hezekiah Quick, Civil War veteran, and Fred Pearce on the Quick homestead in 1915. Capt. Quick was 73 when he homesteaded in 1913. Located, Fox Trail & 29 Palms Hwy.

They stayed there for two months while Joe Herd looked around for a likely place to homestead. He chose the 160 acres just west of the old school house in Yucca Valley. At first they lived in a tent, while they built a yucca log cabin with an adobe fireplace. Theirs was a family ranch. They raised feed for the cattle and had chickens and a garden. Today Susie Heard tells her great grandchildren the many stories of those early rugged days.

Joe Heard knew one Hezekiah Quick in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Joe soon interested him into coming west and homesteading in this new raw land. So, in 1914, the Quick family migrated out here. They chose 160 acres that now extends from the Twentynine Palms highway up to Mountain View Ave. One of his daughters, married to John Redden, took the half section south of the family site in 1920. Six children were born to them, of which Grant and Jessie Redden Kerr, are still prominent citizens in the Valley.

Iwish to insert an interesting note here. Jessie Kerr was kind enough to permit the use of an old letter from her grandfather Quick, to her own mother, then in Iowa. It shows the longsight of one, who like the other early pioneers, looked far into the future of this Valley. This letter was written soon after he arrived here in 1914.

(Quote from letter) "... an old soldier holds a claim (homestead of 160 acres) not as good as mine one mile distant, he was offered \$1000 for it. He said, No. \$1500 will buy it, not less. And here I tell you truly if I live to get a U.S. patent on my claim (homestead) no man's \$1500 would be an inducement to me. And I am not excited either

nor running wild. No, just give us WATER and we'll then have the finest country in the world. It is only a question of time ... it is coming ... just as sure as sunset follows sunrise ... and then "Morongo" Valley (Greater Morongo Basin) will bloom equal to any part of California. (Mr. Quick's favorite expression was, "Mark you well, some day we will see a city at the foot of these hills) You can't buy an acre, unimproved, the roughest for less than \$100 and from that up to \$250 and higher. As to climate, it surely is ideal ... the breezes wafted off those snow covered mountains make it pleasant Of course now it is all new, wild and a desolate place to look at. (One must) live the life of a hermit among the varmints, wolves (coyotes) owls and snakes and endure all the hardships and inconveniences a man has to undergo. Now do not be uneasy about me if you do not hear from me, for a time ... we are 24 miles from the nearest post office (Palm Springs) and no regular delivery, just as some one happens to pass, is our only chance for mail. I have every arrangement made for winter except some grub. And that I will buy and ship to the nearest railroad station. That is at Palm Springs, I will have to hire a team to haul my supplies from Palm Springs to the valley. Now don't you be uneasy about me. I am well fixed for the winter and among friends. -" end of quote from the letter.

It is of interest to note that Mr. Quick was a hearty 73 years young when he homesteaded here in 1914.

Men with such courage and vision were never daunted by age ... for them there was always a tomorrow. The one faculty a human being needs to advance and progress.

These were the first three families before 1920. After that the migration was steady and to list all of them would be impossible. Too, many of them and their offerings today constitute a large per cent of our present population. It is wonderful to note how the children of these families have continued to remain right here with only short sojourns into the wilds of the big cities to see what they may have missed.

While these three families were hewing out their respective ranch sites there was one faction of business going on. That of cattle raising on a large scale.

Old Will Shay of San Bernardino, had his cattle out here. By HERE, I mean just about as far in all directions that the cattle cared to wander. C.O. Barker had his cattle out here and it was he that laid script on 40 acres that was later known as Reche Well, five acres of this was to be set aside for the cattle, with first rights from the well to the watering of the cattle. The Talmadge brothers, Will, John and Frank, ran on this range from the 1880's till as recent as 1944. But their headquarters were at Whitewater ranch (opposite Snow Creek on Highway 99 and their winter range at Big Bear Lake. With a headquarters at the Pipes near Pioneertown. Then there was the big outfit at Old Woman Springs, owned then by Swarthout and Gentry, all of these outfits used the same range, and the young fellows of that time were cowboys. Their twice a year roundup were the stuff our Americana is made of.

There is one point about a landmark that is misunderstood. I want to clear it up once and for all. The adobe house that Doctor Bendall uses for his office today was NOT built by Chuck Warren. When he established Warren's Well, he built a wooden cabin for a bunkhouse. It burnt down and was rebuilt. As late as 1930, when John Berry, now of Victorville, used the well for a period of three years while he ran his herd among the rest of the cattle, he built the present adobe house. Let this clear up the misunderstanding.

Some of the readers may be wondering, where did those freighters or teamsters haul to, that used to stop at the Warren stageranch.

In those early days and even before, Chinamen and Spaniards sought gold throughout this district. Later the white man got into the act. But no mine of great importance was ever discovered in this part of the country. Our records tell us that.

Before closing, I want to say, there were several people who came in their early years, saw, like what they saw and later came back to settle here.

Back in the late 19 hundreds, Reuben E. Jeffries, then State Game and Fish Warden, brought his young daughter Laurel along with him on one of his annual trips. She fell in love with the country and later when she married Kirk Martin they moved out here. As many know, Kirk is an artist whose works rank among the top ten of America. Laurel is now well known for her western leather clothes designs.

Tom and Vi Humphreville came first. Their many relatives visited them. All liked the Valley and soon a large number of them were here. When their friendly little HARDESTY'S store added a room for our first post office, many thought the new town would be HUMPHREVILLE. It was at that time still known as WARREN'S WELL, the postal authorities decided to skip personal names and so today we have YUCCA VALLEY.

Another person of those very early twenties, was Mrs. June Le Mert Paxton, who still lives in her attractive red house east of the old Warren's Well. She has done much for the valley with her writings of the early days.

There are many more wonderful people. I mention these three because by virtue of their varied professions they are a bit more outstanding than the rest of us. But ALL of us are true lovers of this desert ... and therein lies the crux of the matter, we are also a camp divided.

The good old days are gone ... but were they so good? THAT is the bone of contention, and good for an argument any time or place two members of opposites meet.

That rugged mode of life in the good old days ... hauling water many miles in shoe cases. Fixing a picnic lunch to take along while the mother and children went to spring or watering place to heat her wash water over an open fire, hand scrub the clothes, then hang them on the bushes to dry while they ate their lunch. Or the long trek, once a month into Banning for grub supplies over roads wending aimlessly around greasewood and sagebrush as the team

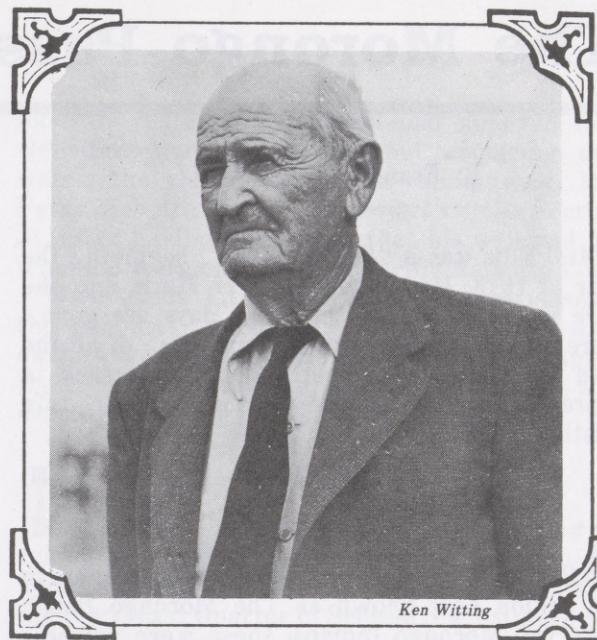
picked its own footing. Out here where Charlie Reche settled his family on the C.O. Barker range, it was closer to go to Victorville. His wife took their youngest son Walt with her on the little buckboard hitched to four burros. It took them seven days to make the round trip, and Victorville is a scant 57 miles now made over oiled roads in about an hour.

The good points about those early days were the hearty solid bodies of the people. The free from tax, worried minds. Hard rid-fun loving cowboys, without a yodel amongst them. That was the GOOD of the old days.

The other faction welcomed the advent of straightened roads. The valley's first concession to advancement. The coming of the automobile. No man was more overworked than those first few mechanics who tried beyond their skill to keep those gas buggies rolling over those wash board roads. Always ending up with the old standby of bailing wire to tie those early models together.

After that things moved fast in the relatively short span of 25 years we made fence gates of wagon wheels, and patio fountains of old hand water pumps. Our coal oil lamps gathered dust on back shelves. But we did NOT throw them away. We soon found that the blessing of electricity that lights our streets and glows warmly from our windows has a nasty habit of failing us when we need it most ... during a rugged storm. Then is when we wise out dust off those coal oil lamps and permit a sigh to escape us as the soft glow smugly serves us ... again.

There is one man I think we should pay respect to in this annual of the desert. That is JACK CONES, still a law officer in Twentynine Palms. For many years he was our



Ken Witting

John Redden homesteaded at the top of Kickapoo Trail in 1923. He dug a well by hand, reaching water at about ten feet. The original Redden cabin burned.

only lawman. He was beloved, feared and respected by virtue of his own ability to hold his scattered population in line. Today he represents the old and the new and he has spanned the years with devoted service to each of us. ●

Footnotes To History

Yucca Unit Sews for Hospitals

Dec. 10, 1943

THIRTY-SIX bedside bags and 22 wash cloths were made and donated to Banning hospital by Yucca Valley American Legion Auxiliary Unit 469, it was reported at Friday night's meeting in the new clubhouse there. Mrs. L.D. Wiser, president, presided.

To fill vacancies, an election was conducted, Mrs. Abbie Kerr being chosen secretary-treasurer and Mrs. Bertha Bowman, second vice-president. Plans for the Christmas party were discussed.

The meeting closed with serving of cake and coffee to post and unit members by Mrs. Jeff Overbay, refreshment committee chairman. ●

YUCCA VALLEY

July 14, 1948

Yucca Valley Post Office Now Third Class

Hilda Hardesty, postmaster at Yucca Valley Post Office, announced last week that, since July 1st, the local Post Office has been operating as a third-class Post Office. She reported that 195 boxes and 32 general delivery patrons are now being served. The Post Office also sells War Savings bonds in \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations.

Valley residents have good reason to be proud of the advance in rating made by their local Post Office. It is due to the tremendous popularity of this area, due to its enviable climate, fine water supply and the friendliness of its residents. ●

The Morongo Pass - Years Ago

By Frances Sargent Ellis

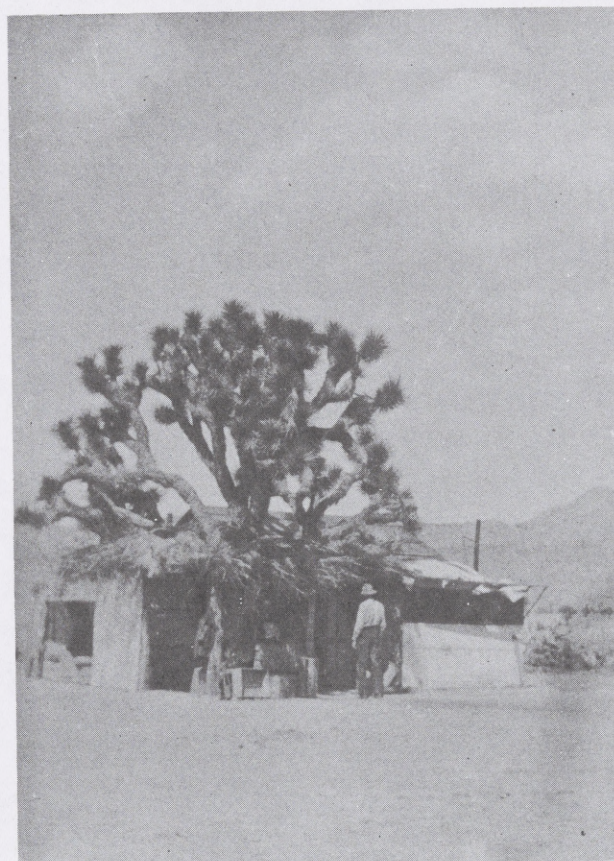
Mrs. Ellis was a "Homesteader", beginning the year of 1913. Her youngest sister Marie and she were in search of health. Those days are gone - there remain so many happy memories - of all the kind friends and neighbors; also one learned to appreciate all of the many forms of Desert Life existing there.

ACCORDING to legend, the first inhabitants in the region now known as The Morongo Basin, were the Morongo Indians, these were nomadic tribes, living on the pinon nuts, raising corn and grain crops, the squaws were left to care for the crops and gather the nuts, while the braves hunted with bow and arrow to fell their Deer, Antelope and Buffalo for meat. After the Government Reservation was established east of Banning, the Morongo Indians departed from their "Valleys of many Waters", to take up their abode in the Reservation.

THE Morongo Pass was more or less a desert trail - traveled over by white-faced cattle, the cowhands, the riders of the range. The teamsters freighting supplies to the mines; The Virginia Dale, The Lost Horse - The Queen - and The Rose mine. The prospectors passed through with their burro teams, or their pack burro trains, on their way in the search for gold, in the vast area of the Taquitz mountains. The Spanish Missionaries passed through the Pass on their way from the Mojave Desert to the Colorado River, stopping only to make camp and to take a fresh supply of water.

Some fifty years ago the Indian man-hunt made headlines throughout the West - the murderer "Willie Boy" kidnapped his sweetheart, fleeing into the rugged desert region, then he shot and killed her. He was finally cornered and taken in the Pipes Canyon. Mr. Reche, the head Deputy Scout, was severely injured by one of the shots from the outlaw's gun, carrying the scars to his death.

AROUND the year of 1878 Chuck Warren settled on 160 acres of land in the Little Morongo Valley (Morongo Valley of today), building an adobe house, a barn, and a spring house, in the clearings raising alfalfa, sorghum, grain and corn. In later years he and his sons raised the white-face cattle; securing a lease from the Government for the purpose of a grazing range for his herds of cattle. As his herds increased he



Frances Ellis

May 1910 - Percy's Well on Section 51 North of Baseline. The windmill and water tank had not yet been installed.

and his sons bought the 80 acres of School Land in Section 36, North of Baseline, that had been set aside for schools, in The Big Morongo Valley (Yucca Valley of today.) The Warrens dug a well, and according to the tradition of the West, the area became known as "Warren's Well". A cabin and a barn were built, trees were cut from the nearby hillsides, then hauled to make fence posts and the large corrals. A large reservoir was constructed of rocks and cement, then with their windmill for pumping water from the well, a supply of water was always available, for the cattle, and for the wayfarer.

In the year of 1912, Mr. Will Talmadge and two brothers bought the Warren cattle, and the property in the Big Morongo Valley, their headquarters were established at "Warren's Well", with Walter Warren as "Rider" for the year. The water tanks were constructed at The Spring in the west end of the Valley, piping the stream of

water from the Spring into the constructed tanks. The same construction was used at The Black Rock Spring in the southern end of the Valley, giving a supply of water for the herds of cattle. These white-faced cattle grazed on the thriving Galleta and Bunch Grasses, the Alfilaria or "Filaree", also on the "Prickly Pear" - the "Cacti". Ranging from Seven Palms, Whitewater, Mission Canyon, The Pipes south into the Covington Flats, east into the Coyote Holes area. The last of May the "Round Up" started then the herds were headed for Big Bear Valley for the summer months.



Frances Ellis

1913 - Homestead cabin of Frances Sargent on Government lot three, Section six, township one south, range six east, S.B.B.M. There was enough snow to make a snow ball.

After many years the old cabin that the Warrens built at "Warren's Well", burned to the ground, the Talmadge brothers then erected a very comfortable Log Cabin on the property.

During the year of 1910, Mr. Percy a "Locator" of Government Lands, put down a well on the Section 31, North of Baseline, acquiring a good supply of water, he then solicited some professional and business men of Riverside for locating in the Big Morongo Valley (Yucca Valley of today), on desert claims. After the men inspected the land for entry, Doctor Ellis, one of the twelve men, drew the North One-half of Section Six, Township One South, for his filing. The entrymen made their required improvements on their lands

for two years, after several one hundred foot wellholes were drilled without acquiring any water, the claims were then relinquished. Mr. Percy also abandoned his project on the Section 31, after having discovered that his well and his windmill were on Southern Pacific Railroad land.

Many years later, Mr. Frank Rogers secured the property, building a beautiful home, with modern equipment, electric lights, landscaping the fenced in area, some years later the home was destroyed by fire.

In the year of 1913, Doctor Ellis decided to relinquish his desert land claim, in order to file upon a Homestead, on May 16th, 1913, he filed on the Northeast Quarter of Section Six, establishing a home, where he, his son and his daughter resided until he returned to his practice in Riverside, having regained his health making occasional trips to his desert home place. Throughout the years he sent many people to the Valley, to seek health and desert living.

In the year of 1910, the Heard family established their home on Section 34, North of Baseline. There were two other families in the East end of the Valley on Section 4, South of Baseline. In the following years there were many families founded their homes throughout the Valley.

Upon leaving Banning one looked forward to the "Camp-site" near the Whitewater Ranch, there, the clean, cool water flowed from the Whitewater River through the canal to the ranch for irrigating the alfalfa fields, and for other ranch uses. There was no Whitewater River Bridge - one forded the stream at the crossing, first looking to see if there were boulders visible in the stream. The old road was along the southern slope of the Whitewater Hill, a one-way passage, with a couple of widened spaces along the bank, just in case you should meet some one coming down the grade. Crossing The Devil's Garden, the Mission Creek flowed through the Mission Canyon, to the desert regions below. A spring was to be found on the west side of the road, in the Dry Canyon area. At the summit "The Warren Ranch" was in view, with the farm buildings and the corrals - The Farm House was set to the south among the fine old cottonwood trees.

The Fred Pollards leased the "Warren Ranch" in the year of 1912, for several years; Mr. Pollard did freighting from the Palm Springs depot, carrying the mail to the Ranch house, there, to be distributed and forwarded throughout The Pass; - by the person or parties, who had stopped by The

Ranch, one of The Riders, a freighter, a mine-owner on his way to The Mines, or a neighbor passing through, leaving the mail, in the mail-boxes that were placed at "Warren's Well."

The "Warren Ranch" was the official "Voting Place" for the District; also, "The Wayside Open-House" - where a wayfarer sought lodging and meals, with the true western hospitality, of our desert.

In later years The Pollards built the original "Morongo Lodge" north of the "Warren Ranch," with a fine orchard and garden, and beautiful shade trees. The property was sold, then enlarged, as it now stands.

During the year of 1910, and for many seasons there was heavy rain-fall throughout the desert regions, with snow; on May the first of 1916 we had a snow covered ground.

Through the years of 1913 and 1914, Doctor Ellis leased the fenced area of the Heard Homestead on Section 34, for the planting of the grain - "Russian Emmer" - grain-seed was secured from a large seed house in Los Angeles. The grain crop was very bountiful, securing five large hay-stacks.

Through the following years, Mr. Heard planted grain crops upon his fenced in area on the Section 34, having bountiful crops of grain. Mr. Kellerman also planted grain crops on his fenced in field on the Southeast Quarter of Section 34, during the years of 1914 and 1915.



Frances Ellis

1914 - Doctor Ellis and his Mules Jack and Charlie, and the barn and haystack. The "Russian Emmer" hay was planted and raised in the valley on Section 34, North of Baseline.

For the planting in the years of 1915 and 1916, on the Northeast Quarter and also on the Northwest Quarter of the Section Six - Doctor Ellis planted "The Tepary Bean" - the bean-seed was also supplied from the same Los Angeles Seed-house. The two bean crops came up and made a beautiful stand, in both of the fenced fields. The entire crop of beans was taken row by row in both of the fields - by the jackrabbits. The entire fields of beans were cleared, not a sign of a bean plant was visible, after this "RAID" of this army of Jackrabbits.



Frances Ellis

1914 Dr. Ellis in the foreground. There are five "Russian Emmer" haystacks, and his cabin home in the background.

Friends and neighbors lost their orchard plantings, and seedlings and gardens, throughout The Pass; a rabbit proof fence was the only solution for a planting.

The Quail and The Dove, were plentiful, and available in season; The Dove would come to their feeding grounds, to feed upon the "Doveweed" growing along the Twentynine Palms road, they also found a supply of water at "Warren's Well" nearby. The "Cottontail" rabbit was to be found here and there throughout the Pass, always making a very tasty meal now and then.

By the year of 1915, there were enough resident school-aged children to apply for a school in the area. A permit had been granted for a

school in the Little Morongo Valley, (Morongo Valley of today). The Supervisors suggested that a different name be submitted for the school in the Big Morongo Valley. Doctor Ellis made the suggestion that the "YUCCA" be presented. The name "YUCCA," was then accepted; the school was established, beginning with the Fall term of school, in the home of Mr. John Cariker, located on the Northeast Quarter of Section Two, South of Baseline. Mrs. Joe Robertson was elected as president of the school board, with Miss Christine Snelling accepted as the first teacher, of the Yucca Valley School. Fifteen or more pupils were in regular attendance throughout the first school year. The three children of the Dutton family, the two daughters of the Robertsons, the Pierce children, the Cariker children, the Heard children, and several other children in The Valley.

During World War One, many of these Homestead families found and made homes elsewhere; after retiring from their occupations, many have returned to enjoy Desert Living again.

During the 1920's many veterans, after their Army service came to The Morongo Basin in the search of health; remaining, to make their homes here in The Basin through the years.

In the late 1920's the American Telephone and Telegraph Company made their survey through the district, securing their Right of Way, to erect their Continental lines across the State. The Power lines were also erected - bringing electric power to the Valley.

With paved Highways, electric lights, electric equipment, telephone service, super markets, Desert Living is indeed most modern today. ●

WHO OWNS THE DESERT?

Does it belong to the strange sights we see? Sunrise, sunset, God's golden stars above your eyes?

Or does it belong to the strange sounds we hear, the whispering of the wind, the rustling of blowing sand, the humming and buzzing insects, the chirping of desert birds, the strange unfamiliar bark of the bobcat call?

Or does it belong to the black hairy tarantula, who looks like a big fluffy ball?

Or does it belong to Mr. Coyote in his midnight call?

Or does it belong to the beautiful desert birds we like to hear sing?

Or does it belong to Scorpion and his poisonous sting?

Or does it belong to Mr. Sidewinder as he slips and slides in the sand?

Or does it belong to Mr. Gila Monster as he shows off his beaded yellow and orange band?

Or does it belong to his native cousin, the lizard, you hold in your hand?

Or does it belong to Mr. Tortoise with his big clumsy feet, or does it belong to Mr. Jack Rabbit, as he hides in a bush we call mesquite.

Or does it belong to the little road runner, who thinks he is King but acts like a clown?

Or does it belong to the quail, who gives us a lovely cooing sound?

Or does it belong to the badger as he burrows a hole in the ground?

Or does it belong to the prairie dog, squirrels, and other rodents, that leave nuts and seeds all around? Or does it belong to hawks, bats, birds that swoop from the sky?

Or does it belong to a tiny desert mouse, with a tear in his eye?

Or does it belong to his cousin, the kangaroo rat, who stands so brave and tall and whispers, "I need no water at all".

Then who owns the desert?

Does it belong to our giant saguaro cactus, that grows sometimes fifty or sixty feet tall?

Or does it belong to the barrel cactus, with its buds and flowers so small?

Or does it belong to the tumbleweed, as it rolls and travels with great speed?

Or does it belong to the bush we call mesquite as we look for pods and beans to eat?

Or does it belong to the Smoke Tree, with its colors of blue and grey, or does it belong to the Yucca that stands on a hill far away?

Or does it belong to the Joshua, as he lifts his spikey arms to pray?

Or does it belong to the Golden California poppy, or the thousands of desert wildflowers that bloom by the light of the day?

Then who owns the desert?

We must love, preserve, defend and protect it as the days, weeks, months, and years go by.

For the desert belongs to everyone who has created it, and made it, God, you and I. ●

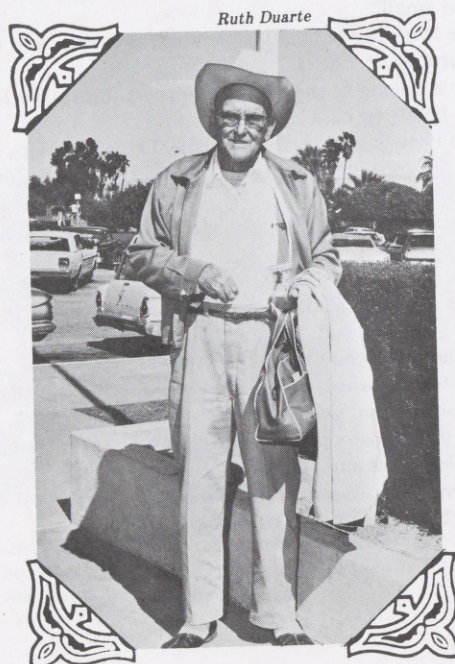
—By Sherry Beth Lasserre — Morongo Valley,
Third place winner in the Grubstake Days Edition

Bill Pace of Yucca Valley

In November, 1948, when the promising village of Yucca Valley, California was still squatted on San Bernardino County's "Open Range" east of San Gorgonio mountain's "Jump Off" Bill and Rose Pace established their Buckin' Horse Ranch. Letters from all over the world, as well as those post marked in the U.S.A., were filling up post office box 102 in Hilda Hardesty's embryo post office. It was at that time a make-shift annex to Pop Hardesty's grocery store and filling station just across the highway from "Old man Harold's Lone Star Ranch". These letters had the look and feel of importance — with odd post marks in foreign languages and legal stamps and wrappings. All of them were addressed to Marvin W. Pace, Buckin' Horse Ranch, Yucca Valley, California.

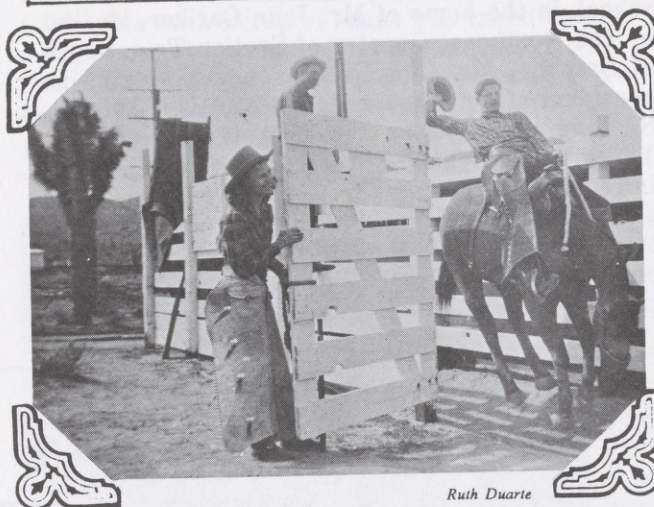
Due to the efforts of professional journalist-photographer, Howard D. Clark, a story of the Pace BUCKIN' HORSE RANCH appeared in the November 1948 Popular Mechanics magazine. The story covered three pages and five photos. It described a Texas cow-hand's late invention — Gunpowder — the mechanical horse saddled western style that ran and bucked for a distance of 120 feet along a corral fence. The bronc rises 20 inches in the air as he jumps and bucks three and a half feet forward, and is operated by a hidden person behind the fence. Gunpowder could buck twice in one second or — for Grandmas and the very young, once a minute. It was claimed to be

Bill Pace



Ruth Duarte

the only mechanical buckin' horse in the world, covered by 11 patents in the U.S., Canada, England or Mexico.



Ruth Duarte

1948 - Through the gate on Gunpowder. Buckin' Horse Ranch - Yucca Valley.

On April 14, 1949 the Buckin' Horse Ranch was legally registered in the State of California, San Bernardino County — official number 1526. Bill and Rose Pace were now launched in a brand new business venture on their acreage along Twentynine Palms highway, Yucca Valley. Here was the actual end of the rainbow for these two ex-Rodeo Circuit Riders. Their dreams and plans of many years were fast developing into a lucrative business here in the hi-desert where they figured Rose's health was bound to improve. Between oversized wooden scrap book covers designed by Rose and made by Bill, they started an authentic account of Buckin' Horse Ranch which would contain magazine and newspaper clippings, original letters and documents plus photos that would account for the rest of their lives.

In this oversized scrap book can be found Rose and Bill's proof of birth (in Texas of course) Rodeo photos from many states, their marriage certificate and photos of Rose's grave in the Twentynine Palms cemetery — even Bill's request that his ashes be interned there.

After Rose's death in 1952 Bill sort of lost interest in the Buckin' Horse ranch. Times were rough and money scarce. How could he carry on after a lifetime with a partner who had won more

trophies than he? Bill sold the business acreage along Twentynine Palms highway — and donated a building site to the Yucca Valley Volunteer fire department. He packed up Gunpowder together with several other spare mechanical horses and equipment which had cost the couple more than \$3,000. Their lifetime of hard won rodeo trophies and attractive western outfits of leather fringes, beads and the like — “the way we were”, and put them all in storage.



Rose Pace

Ruth Duarte

Because he was still a member of the Merit Contractor's Association, Bill went back to building homes and business buildings in the Yucca Valley area. One of his first accomplishments was the relocation of the Buckin' Horse Ranch in the hills above the village. His spacious blacksmith shop, barn and corrals welcomed riding groups and his many friends who came from far and near just to “shoot the bull” with a wild west champion and trail boss. His modern home on a hilltop never seemed to know a stranger. The many windowed kitchen was Bill's pride and joy — especially when he served up Texas “son of a bitch stew” — cowboy style in tin plates — corn bread hot from the oven — all to the tune of range land ballads and jokes.

Forever a showman at heart, Bill kept up his affiliation with various moving picture companies. The big Texan loved to dance and ham it up. He joined the Yucca Valley player's group of home talent enthusiasts enacting one to three act plays written by a local man, Bruce Buxton. When he wasn't on stage Bill loved to sit in the back row. When the audience clapped he'd whistle, stomp his gold tipped boots and give a wild cowboy yell



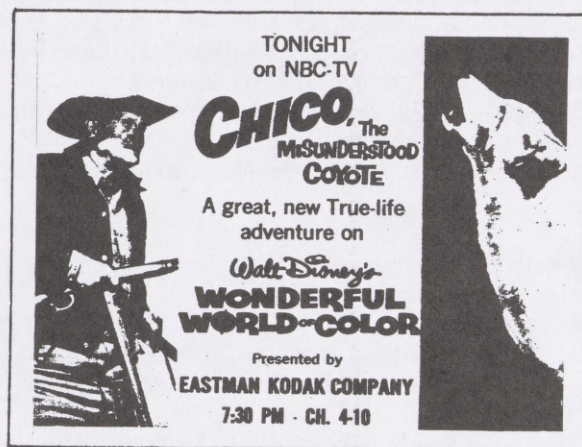
Ruth Duarte

Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Rose Pace

that nearly brought down the ceiling. A couple of Bill's favorite TV shows that he figured portrayed his acting talent best were the Disney film “Wild Burrow of the West” and “Chico the Misunderstood Coyote”. Both were filmed in the Joshua Tree National Monument.

Before Bill crossed the “Great Divide” to the “Promised Land” (197?) he confided to a few of his very close friends, “I've lived a long time and had a generally rip roaring generally good life and I don't regret a darn minute of it. I done my best — gave it all I had and I'm ready. Now hand me that bottle of apricot brandy!”

For the record, Bill's scrap and other records were found in an all steel foot locker — padlocked — and in a corner of his living room. It was delivered to my home by his long time friend Star Titus who still has faith in the forthcoming book “BUCKIN' HORSE RANCH”.●



The above copy ran in the T.V. Guide, that Bill Pace played in the movie.

The Incorporation Story

When the subject of Incorporation comes up, there are many Yucca Valley citizens who feel like the bride who is all dressed up and waiting at the altar.

Incorporation first came up semi-officially in the late 1950's, when it was discussed by the Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce but must have been considered as a future project as it was not attempted at that time.

Then, in 1961, an informal meeting of a citizens committee was held at the Glen Restaurant. At that time it was decided to have a formal study, to see if it would be feasible for Yucca Valley to seek Cityhood.

Dick Battle was to Chair the Committee and Luther Colvin, Mary Young, and Mary Hugentugler, directors.

With all of that committee information used as basic research, a Yucca Valley Incorporation election was held in 1964. Still serving as Chairman was Dick Battle with Mary Young as Treasurer. Mr. Battle was killed in an auto accident at that time. Luther Colvin and Mary Hugentugler served as co-chairmen of the committee.

Many local merchants gave money in support of the effort and major business people such as Norm Essig, Art Miller, Ben Gage, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Howell, Bob Potter, Al Peters, Dorothy Sall, George Petro, and Phyllis Grubaugh were some of those supporters.

With a major portion of the population made up of retired people on fixed incomes, the fear was a large rise in taxes if Incorporation was to happen. The election failed.

A period of ten years passed before another incorporation attempt in 1974. Dr. Ralph Pace, Chairperson and Jean Burns served as treasurer. Also serving on the committee were Mr. and Mrs. Hal Bahr, Merle Pace, and Phyllis Grubaugh. Joan Wilson, Mary Young, and Mary Hugentugler were advisors and helped circulate petitions. Office space for this endeavor was donated by Art Miller and served as Incorporation Headquarters.

With all the new information gathered and updated came new statistics along with the many officials from other newly incorporated southern California cities who came and spoke to the voters about their experiences and why their cities incorporated.

Dr. William H. Kraus, City Administrator for the City of Norwalk came to speak. Dr. Kraus was also part-time Assistant Professor of Public Administration at the California State Universities

at Long Beach, Fullerton and Dominguez Hills. Dr. Kraus had many other administrative credits dating back to 1964, including Director of Community Services, Irvine; City Manager of Los Alamitos and City Administrator and part-time consultant for Villa Park; City Manager for the City of Beaumont and Assistant City Manager for the City of Redlands.

Among his educational credits included a B.B. in Political Science, U.C. Riverside; a post-graduate internship in Public Affairs: Coro Foundation, L.A.; M.A. in Public Administration, U.S.C.; M.A. degree in Urban Affairs Occidental College, and a Doctoral Degree in Public Administration at U.S.C.

In the middle of this effort, the ever hard working Dr. Pace died of a heart attack. At that time Rudy Biser and Carl Smelko took over as co-chairman.

Even though there were more people in favor of incorporation, still the senior citizens feared higher taxes and the measure failed.

The latest election was held in 1977. The Committee was Chaired by Garnett Stockton and Mary Young served as Treasurer. One of the strongest members of the of the Committee was California Highway Patrolman Bill Miller, who worked for incorporation and using the election as his Master's Thesis, and earned his M.A. degree. This time Mary Young and Mary Hugentugler donated the use of their building for headquarters, helped circulate petitions and served as advisors. Merle Pace donated a considerable amount of money to the cause. Among those who helped were Wayne and Gertrude Henry, Hardy Strizier, Gladys Schremp, Ted Ward, Bill Meyers, and Pauline Kearney.

Those who were there to always help with time and money in support of the effort were Chet and Angela Spencer, Rod and Lil Stickney, Mr. and Mrs. G. Ames, Gladys Murray, Bob and Jane Purcell, Vane and Bess Hall, Andrew and Louise McCoy, John List, Wayne and Gertrude Henry, Margaret Parry, Gladys Schremp, Luther Colvin, Iva Huneycutt, Al Peters, Jean Nichols, Helen Pearman, Mary Young, Mary Hugentugler, Joan Wilson, Phyllis Grubaugh, Art Miller, Bob Potter, Norm Essig, Robert Schoenleber, Jean Burns, Dorothy Sall, and many others.

Working as a consultant, for Berryman and Stephenson Inc. of Santa Ana, Dr. Kraus made a thorough study and issued a "Yucca Valley Municipal Financial Feasibility Report for Incorporation."

This 36 page report included every possibility and his recommendations. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department offered a proposed contract to provide law enforcement and protection for the new city and came up with an annual budget figure of \$315,967 for 16 law enforcement persons.

As part of his proposed city budget, Dr. Kraus's recommendation called for the creation of a City Police Dept. with 14 permanent personnel and 10 reserve police with an annual cost of \$247,250.

The first to file for a place on the proposed City Council was Mrs. Stockton, who was replaced by Gertrude Henry and Gladys Schremp, who served as co-chairmen of the committee and again, the election failed.

Back in 1964, many of the old-timers wanted to keep Yucca Valley small and rural, but realizing that progress was coming, they knew reality must be faced, and if that was the way it was to be, they at least wanted the people of Yucca Valley to be in control of their own destiny.

Also suggested was that a Citizens Watchdog Committee be formed to protect the townspeople and fledgling city and to keep the City Council within the budgetary promises, and to stay active in keeping the people informed as to what was happening at all times.

As with each attempt for incorporation the California State Board of Equalization, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, (particularly the first Dist. Supervisor) the County Local Agency Formation Commission, the profes-

sional consultants and the feasibility studies have always recommended cityhood for Yucca Valley for financial feasibility but for financial benefits.

The collected opinions and studies proved Yucca Valley would receive a great deal of money as a City, which was now going to the County. Among these monies were Federal and State revenue sources. Also in the report, it proved that no tax increases were needed.

Still each time more citizens agreed that it was desirable for Yucca Valley to run its own affairs.

Again a group of dedicated citizens undertook the work for incorporation of Yucca Valley. This election matter was in Nov. 1985.

Those working on this goal were David Vordermark, chairman, Paul Bailey, First Vice Chairman, and in-the-field workers, Colin Barraclough, Paul Olsen, Herb and Joan Todtman, Herb Watts, Merley Goodpaster, Andre Ost, Lisa Daly, Ray and Bea Watson, Howard M. Van Elgort, Reese Ballard, Dr. Cliff Jordon, Richard Madigan, Jerry Macklet, Keith Robbins, John Dempsey, Paul Hoffman, Monte Rauschenberg, Michael Welchel, Art Miller Jr., Ray Johnson, Judy Walcutt, Bill Meyers, Bob Thacher, Irl Greer, Rose Delamarde, Marie and Dave MacDougall, Ray Greenleaf, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Rohman, Henry Kingston, John Gardner, Hal Paradis, Al Peters, Bob Nordyke, Mike Poland, Dave Williams Sr., Bill Warner, Burton C. Nelson, Arthur G. Letherby, Carl Peiniger, Walt Zerman, Margaret Grisotti, Lloyd Hoffman, Peggy Towne, Mary Ann and Cliff Murphy and Mary Beth Robinson. ●

Memorabilia

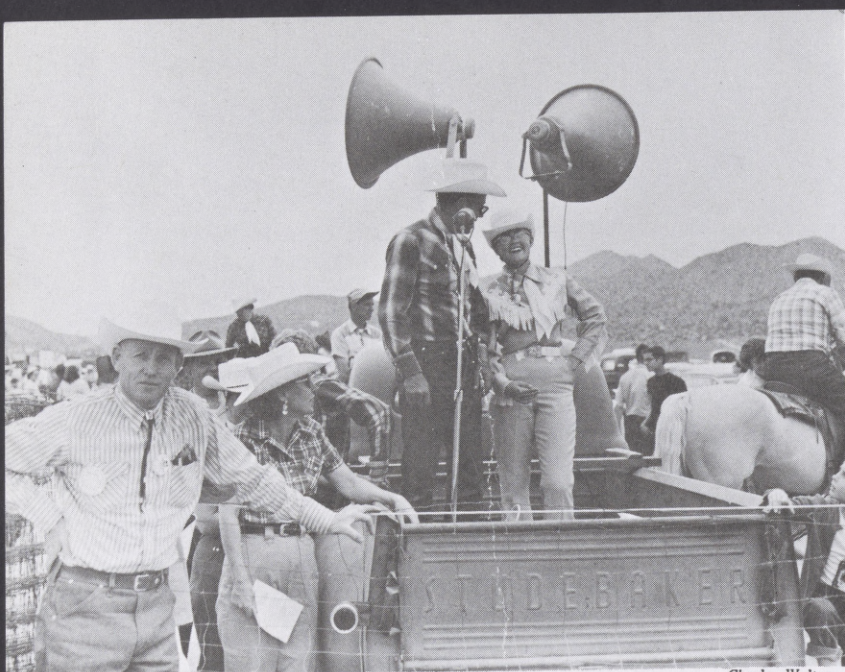
June 29, 1972

Lions Club move first schoolhouse to storage at a recent C of C Board of Directors it was announced the Lions club has volunteered to help move Yucca Valley's first schoolhouse on Yucca Trail to Hi-Desert Concrete Co. backyard until a permanent place in the Storey Park Community Center is found for it. The Lions Club will also help rebuild it when the permanent home is established. ●

1988 - Time marches on, the little school was taken to the dump, again history is lost.

1948

Fred A. Storey, subdivider, of Yucca Village has, it has been announced, donated a beautifully located village lot for the benefit of the school, and the sale of \$1.00 chances to everyone is being sponsored by the Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce. Everyone has an equal opportunity of winning this large lot, situated on the south side of the highway, up on the slope, giving a splendid view of the entire valley. Electricity and water, also paved streets are in and paid, it is reported. ●



Charles Walton

Bob Brownell Sr. interviewing Grubstake Queen Gloria Atlee - at left is Roy Roush & Betty Brownell.

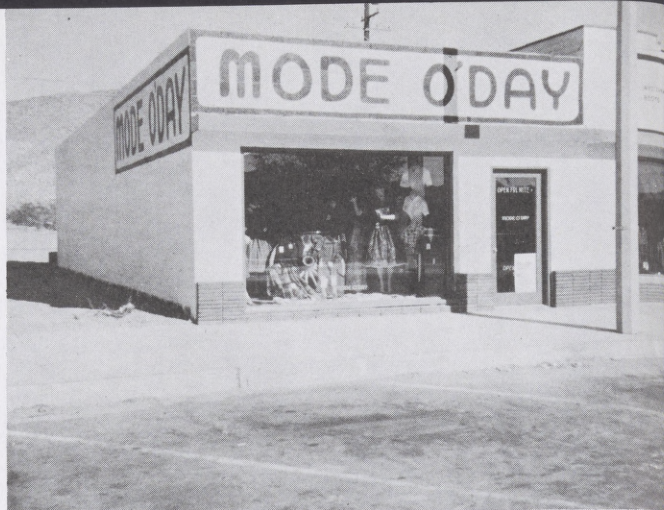
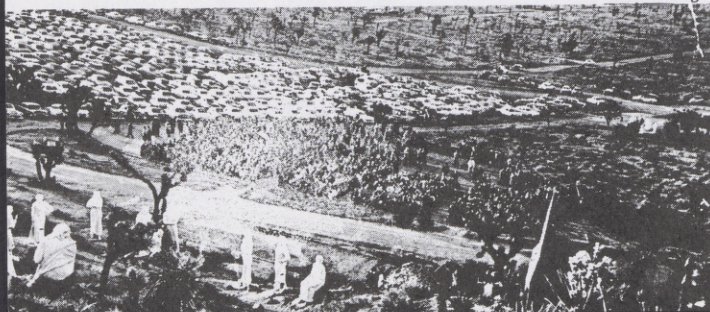


Hi-Desert Star

Betty Green of the Hi-Desert Star.

One of the first Easter Sunrise Services at Antone Martin Memorial Park - somewhere in the fifties.

Ken Witting



Joan's Collection

1960 - The towns first Mode O Day - 29 Palms Highway near Pioneertown Road.

Yucca Valley PH



Charles Walton

Betty Brownell, Betty Green, Jr. Green, & Joe Gross

Hi-Desert S

Big Day - The Hi-Desert Star gets a new press.

Hi-Desert Star Photo



Roy





Joan's Collection

One of our early home builders - Joe Arch.



Marge Smith

COFFEE TIME AT RAY'S CAFE
Ted Smith, Paul Griswold, Bob Cox, and Ralph Fields

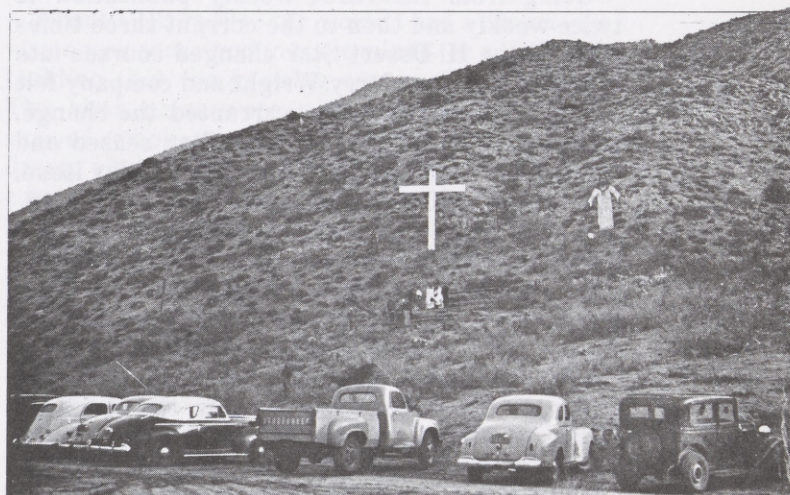
Photo Notes

Bob Brownell Jr. with Grubstake trophy - 1954.



Ruth Duarte

Hi-Desert Star Photo



Ken Witting

The first Easter Sunrise Service in Yucca Valley.



Roy Smith

Bill Pace

Bill Pace Mechanical Horse could be gentle enough for toddlers.

Ruth Duarte



The Hi-Desert Star & Jerry Wright

When Joan Wilson started the Hi-Desert Star in 1957 with \$300 she borrowed from the Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce, little did she know it would grow into the business it is today.

What began as a virtual one-woman operation has burgeoned into a multi-million dollar enterprise over the last three decades, making it a driving force in the Morongo Basin. Now operating in the Basin as Hi-Desert Publishing Co., the company owned by Brehm Communications Inc. publishes not only the Star, but the weekly Desert Trail in Twentynine Palms. Numerous other publications are also printed at the Yucca Valley plant.

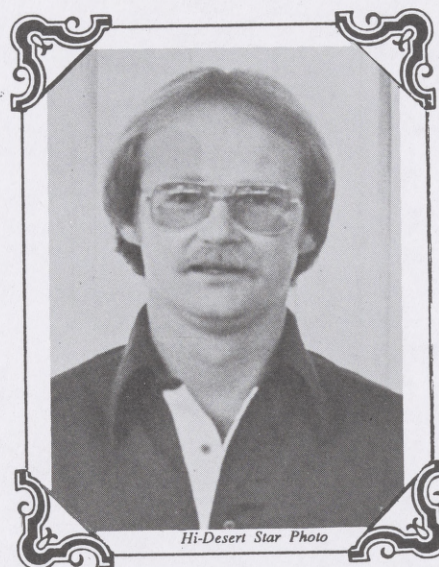
Going from that first weekly publication to twice-weekly and then to the current three times a week, the Hi-Desert Star changed courses late in 1988. Publisher Jerry Wright and company felt that growth in the Basin warranted the change, and publication of the Tuesday Star ceased and the Sunday Star was born. The first Sunday issue, circulation 14,000, hit the newsstands on Oct. 16.

A lot of time and planning went into the new paper — with much time spent redesigning the paper. Everything was covered, from new headline styles to the addition of new sections and the Associated Press newswire, which allows Hi-Desert Publishing to bring the latest in state, national and international news to the residents of the Hi-Desert. The newswire has allowed the Star's editors to mix those stories with local news.

Also added in the Sunday paper was a four-page section of full-color Sunday comics featuring such favorites as Peanuts, Beetle Bailey, Calvin and Hobbes, the Family Circus, Shoe, Dennis the Menace and more.

One of the most exciting additions was the Hi-Desert Star Sunday Magazine, which each week features an in-depth story about a unique Hi-Desert resident written by a staff member of the Star or the Trail. Joan Wilson herself was featured in the magazine's third issue, which hit the stands on Oct. 30. Other magazine features include food and travel, reading, video, Chicago Tribune syndicated columnist Bob Greene and a weekly crossword puzzle.

Hi-Desert Publishing uses 4,200 pounds of newsprint for each issue of the Sunday paper, and a weekly total of 28 metric tons (61,700 pounds) of newsprint is used to produce all of the publications printed at the Yucca Valley plant. The company employs 122 persons, all of whom live in the Basin, and has an annual payroll of \$1.3 million. That's a heck of a long way from Joan Wilson's initial \$300 investment 30 some years ago. ●



Hi-Desert Star - Jerry Wright.

Jerry Wright has been publisher of Hi-Desert Publishing Co. since 1986, after some years with Brehm Communications Inc.

The Stuart, Iowa native (born Nov. 14, 1948) moved to California with his family in 1955. He was raised in Anaheim and graduated from Anaheim High School in 1967.

After a stint in the United States Army (1979-1981), Jerry attended California State University at Fullerton, where he graduated in 1975 with a bachelor of arts degree. He is married to the former Sally Strasshofer and they have two children, Julie, 18, and Jeffrey, 13.

After his graduation from Fullerton, Jerry began his newspaper career as an advertising salesman at the Hi-Desert Star in March, 1976. He was promoted to Retail Advertising Manager at the Star in September, 1987 and to Hi-Desert Publishing General Manager in February, 1980.

In December, 1981 Jerry was promoted to publisher for the Yucaipa and Calimesa News-Mirror, where he remained until returning to the Morongo Basin as Hi-Desert's publisher in August, 1986. ●

Memorabilia

June 1945

Yucca Valley First Graduation Class of 1935

Otto William Bobo, Wilber F. Hammond, Floyd Gullick, J. Howard Minter, and David Sall, Teacher, Miss Ina N.O. Nichols. ●

American Legion

by CHARLOTTE GUINAN

In July 1937, a group of nine women met at the home of Mrs. Ray Bolster, for the purpose of organizing a Service and Social Club. The dues only 50c a year. Only the wives of the Legionnaires were eligible. After meeting in the different homes, the old building west of the old school house was cleaned, painted and converted into the Women's Club House. A two-burner gas plate was installed, cupboards built in, and a long table for meetings and on which to serve refreshments was found. At one of the meetings it was voted that the Club buy a good flag for the American Legion, so dinners were given, cakes and pies raffled off, and eventually \$125.00 was accumulated and presented to the Legion, which they proudly displayed at the Los Angeles Convention. Thus our first community service!

The community at this time was very sparsely settled, and the membership was small. In fact so small at times meetings were held in the cars, but with consistent working, it was not long before we had a fine group of ambitious, energetic women.

Our first dances were held in the old school house, under the sponsorship of the American Legion, but as they were going in the red at such dances, it was decided that the Club would take over this project and see how they could make out. The women worked like mad making signs on big cardboards, and utilizing every effort to advertise the dances — which proved to be quite successful. Music consisted of piano pounded out in fine dance rhythm and a banjo played by Jimmie Boldman. Mrs. Frances Ater was the pianist.

All was not too flowery however, as the community was made up largely of many destitute people who came out for health sake, so the Club members began having dinners, rummage sales, box lunches — quilting parties for raffling — as much money was needed for charity funds. The women sewed layettes for the new babies. Several times checks were sent to the needy, always baskets of groceries and loads of wood went where most needed. Sewing sessions were had, the women bringing their own machines down to the Club House, and these machines hummed, sewing for the hospitals. When we look back at the good old days of our pot luck dinners which were really sumptuous — 'tis with real joy — lots of fun and good fellowship prevailed at these get-togethers. If that little sad looking Club building — now all boarded up, could talk, it would tell how its sides used to bulge from so much laughing and the activities inside. Every Saturday night this little old Club House was used for serving coffee and

donuts — at 10 cents per — for the dancers.

Another fine gesture of the Club women was — for years a check for \$25.00 was sent to anyone having the misfortune of a fire — or those who had met with accidents. It didn't matter if they were members of the Club or not. First aid kits were maintained in service stations from Morongo to the other side of Joshua Tree. This meant each kit was furnished with iodine, cotton, antiseptic bandages, aspirin, etc. Also a snake bite kit costing them \$10.00 was available. A note was on each kit telling where it was kept — and all kits were replenished with supplies every two months. No doctor was in this area — and this service proved a blessing many times in auto accidents and accidents in the home.

About 1942 or 1943 the women had a dream — a vision was conceived in their minds for a BIG Club building that the growing community could use. The birth pains were excruciating — so many serious complications set in. It looked at times the dream could not be realized — but with lots of courage and tenacity, soon things began to happen. First business on hand was to find land on which to build. We approached Wallace and Lulu Stacy, and such contact resulted in their donating approximately 2 acres to the Club, and the same amount to the American Legion.

In 1946 the Club was organized. Men were allowed to join. The building was started — and the dream began to formulate. Clara and Al Livingston owned the only cement block machine in this area — so the Club furnished the cement and Clara and Al made all the blocks — which were laid by donation labor. At that time the Yucca Valley Community Service Club was incorporated under the laws of the State of California — under which laws it now operates.

The Club has from its inception been under many different managements — necessarily, all contributing — time, labor, money and efforts to keep things going. Thanks can be accorded to each, everyone and all who have thus weathered some stormy days trying to maintain — but at this writing the Club is still a fine recreation center for the Valley — it was built for the purpose of furnishing a recreation center for the Valley — and still operates and serves in this capacity. The traditional Saturday night dances and square dances afford much pleasure to the participants. Card parties are held each week — and other civic activities are held in the Club House — such as the fine players group with their popular entertainments.

While only a few of the loyal members keep the Club alive — and that by working hard to do so — this Club should be supported by the entire group of business people of the town, as well as every resident. With sufficient support this Club could be a real civic asset — as its original members set out to make it.

Membership dues are most reasonable — and new members always welcome. Any Club that must be run by a chosen few comes in for more or less of undue criticism — but 'tis true too — that the chosen few are the workers that keep the doors of this worthy Club open — and if more sup-

port could be relied upon and constructive work done — the Club would be able to do much more in the way of a real Community Service.

The above history of the Community Service Club was compiled by Charlotte Guinan, who was a valuable member, and served as Secretary and Treasurer for many years.

In 1959 the Club was completed according to the original plans and specifications and now consists of the following arrangements: Large auditorium, with stage, vestibule and ticket office, lounge, modern bathrooms, patio, storerooms and a large well equipped kitchen, banquet tables, chairs, etc., to serve 200 guests. This location is the Elk Lodge 2314, Yucca Valley. ●



John Olson

Footnotes To History

Jan. 26, 1945

JOHN OLSON DIES FROM GUN-SHOT WOUND

AFTER a 12-day struggle for life, John Olson, miner of The Pipes, succumbed Wednesday, Jan. 24, 10:01 p.m. at the Torney hospital in Palm Springs, where he was taken by local Constable Jack Cones, suffering from a gun-shot wound in the chest. The victim had lain in his mountain cabin from Friday until Tuesday, Jan. 12-16, when he was found by his friend and former partner, Pete Lager.

The local constable said the man who did the shooting, having been apprehended, will probably be indicted by the state grand jury on a charge of murder.

Persistent search by Constable Cones and sheriff's deputies of the mountainous area surrounding Mr. Olson's cabin resulted in the arrest Saturday of Edward E. Emmery, 20, on the charge of suspicion of attempted murder of the aged miner. Report is that the 76-year-old victim, before his death, corroborated the alleged army deserter's statement that the shooting was "accidental."

Emmery, who had been housed and fed for four days by Olson at his Pipes cabin west of Twenty-nine Palms, told officers he had served nine

months in Burma and had deserted from Ft. MacArthur at San Pedro two weeks ago upon returning from overseas service. He said he had been examining Olson's gun, not realizing it was loaded and it was accidentally fired, hitting Mr. Olson near the heart.

However, Constable Cones reported that after the shooting Emmery did not go for aid, but instead started hauling his host's belongings out of the cabin and to a hideout three-fourths of a mile back of the cabin, where the constable reclaimed Olson's army tent, blankets, food, etc.

Saturday, Constable Cones stated, he and Monte Appleton, first-class ordnance man of the local navy station, hiked 10 miles through knee-deep snow from Olson's cabin to the onyx mine to track down the criminal.

"We ran him out of the canyon and he was taken to the San Bernardino sheriff's office by a group of deputies," the officer said.

Since Miner Olson was found shot, Constable Cones and other officers had daily "scoured" The Pipes country in search of the killer. Jan. 18, Tom Humphreville of Yucca Valley, accompanied Cones on one of the many hunts. ●

U.S. Post Office

"THE MAIL MUST GO THROUGH — AND IT DID!"

This section on the U.S. Post Office covers the Morongo Basin. We try to show how simple mail delivery was in a less complicated, now computerized era. It was a time when a name and general area of dwelling was all it took for the mail to go through; and it did.

Like the Morongo Basin, the Post Office serving it has had a slow growth. We've grown from one room operations behind the grocery store to some large, ever expanding, first class Post Offices. Future growth is assured as the area expands. For now let's enjoy our postal service as it is, and as it was.

Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce
"The Valley Beautiful"
Morongo Valley, California

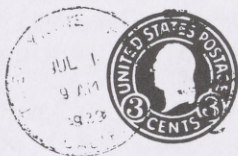


Mr. Walter Hubbard
Morongo Valley, California

The envelopes above and at left show how simple life once was with the Post Office.

for.....days, return to

VENTNINE PALMS, CALIF.



Miss Barbara Hicks
29 Palms Route

L to R John Stephenson, Dorothy Stephenson, Lloyd Havener, Post Mistress Hilda Hardesty, Jane Kie Singleton, Gordon Barth, J.C. Smith & son Rob.



I can't work my combination; do you have to put all this Junk in my box?; are you sure I didn't get a package today?; is it too late for "This" to go out?; have you got something I can stick this together with?; did old Joe pick up his mail today?; This was in the wrong box. My check is overdue. Did I leave my keys in here?

I don't want you to give my mail to anyone but me, Joe, Bill, Suzy, Tom, Agnes or Harry.

Say, I'm looking for a fellow that just moved out here from Los Angeles; he has one of those five acre tracts"

That's what a modern second class postoffice sounds like in Yucca Valley, California. It sounds like "people" living in a rapidly growing desert community, but it didn't always make so BIG a human racket.

In fact, when Postmaster, Mrs. Hilda Hardesty opened Yucca Valley's first office in October, 1945, there were only thirty boxes. They were set into the wall of her dining room in the rear of that so well remembered land-mark, "Hardesty's Friendly Store".

A few of her first customers only picked up their mail once a month, or so, when they came down from their workings in the hills. And most of the rest were very colorful, hardy, vigorous people, in a big country, with big jobs to do; not only developing the land, but, building good lives; some working to regain their health, others coming here to spend their quiet years in the clean air. And more came; and to meet their growing needs the postoffice was moved to larger quarters. Mrs. Dorothy Stephenson was hired a few years later, Miss Jane Singleton joined the crew.

Twice automobiles caused heavy damage to the building and finally it was destroyed by fire in April, 1958. Service was maintained in the Chamber of Commerce Building until the completion of the new postoffice on the present site in October, 1958. New people have been added to the staff and postal service extended to an ever larger part of the valley. ●

JOSHUA TREE RECEIVES ITS NEW POST OFFICE

Thursday, June 13, 1957

It may be hard to visualize a United States Post Office as being encompassed in a 12 by 18 inch box with eight compartments, but such was the first provision for distribution of mail in Joshua Tree.

Need of the developing community soon outgrew this box which was used at the Trading Post Market, 61824 29 Palms, in 1945-46. Joshua Tree was beginning to feel its first growing pains, like any adolescent community.

The move to 61705 Twentynine Palms Highway to the Quinn Building in 1951 was evidence of the community having reached adulthood. The Post Office was on its own now with service assured for the rapidly growing young community.

In 1955 the point of qualifying as a 2nd Class Post Office was reached, and the need for further expanded quarters began to be felt.

In 1956, the tenth year since the establishing of the Joshua Tree Post Office, the move was made to lease premises on North Park Boulevard, to be built expressly to meet specified requirements.

And now, with the dedication of the new Post Office Building just a few days short of eleven years of local postal service, confidence in the assured future of Joshua Tree is affirmed.

Home Mail Delivery Soon

Neva Naaktgeboren

City Mail Carrier

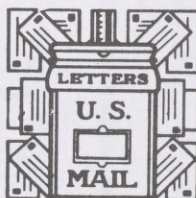
Thursday, Oct. 17, 1963

Neva Naaktgeboren will be Joshua Tree's city mail carrier when the home delivery is started. This will be done as soon as the carrier case arrives, which may take another month. The carrier case is a series of boxes that she will use to sort the mail before delivering each day.

Neva will work from 7 a.m. till noon. At 8:30 a.m. she will begin her foot route in the business district. This will be one block west and one block east of Park Blvd. on 29 Palms Hwy. She will then start her auto route with a special purpose vehicle. It is a right hand drive which has been leased from North American Vehicle Supply Co. of Santa Ana. Delivery will be made on the north hill first, then the south hill area to be finished by noon.

At the present time 170 postal patrons have signed up for home delivery. All Joshua Tree postal patrons should get their mail boxes and check with the post office for exact location; also, the kind of mail box. Those expecting to have home delivery should notify all correspondents and publishers of newspapers and magazines of their new address. All home delivery boxes should have the boxholder's name and address painted on the side of the box. This, to, is a regulation as to which side it should be on. Only mail addressed to this name or care of this name on the box will be left.

The Joshua Tree post office has 700 boxes and serves approximately 2500 postal patrons.

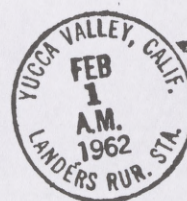


This is a reproduction of a first day letter mailed to the "new" Landers Post Office. The year was 1962. Note the name of the Post Office, "Landers Rural Station."

Hillcrest Escrow Corporation

86336 TWENTY-NINE PALMS HIGHWAY
YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

Mrs. Margaret Dunn,
Mrs. Lois Meeker
Box 147
Landers Rural Station
Yucca Valley, Calif.



First day Landers opened

Nov. 8, 1940

29 PALMS POST OFFICE TO BE ENLARGED TO DOUBLE ITS SIZE

Postmaster Ben Steeg made known this week that authorization has been received from Washington, D.C., to increase the size of the local post office, which is much needed for the convenience of patrons and to facilitate the handling of the mails.

Mr. Steeg advises that local contractors have been given plans for the enlargement of the building by the lessor, Frank Bagley. Construction will start as soon as the low bidder is determined.

The new addition will provide an additional 520 square feet of floor space, which will more than double the present quarters. The new arrangement also provides for greater lobby space and allows for three service windows instead of the two now in use.

Following the work of building the post office addition Bagley's will build a sizeable addition to their store which will be used as a stock room, permitting the present stock room to be utilized for shelving and the display of merchandise.



Postmaster Ben Steeg

P

May 24, 1940

Postmaster Ben Steeg, was elected to head the Legion Post of 29 Palms, American Legion Post 334, at the regular meeting last Friday night. Commander elect Steeg, succeeds Harry Grimm. He will take over the reins of leadership at installation to be announced later.

Commander Steeg's executive committee comprises, Tom Marlow, first vice-commander; Herb Tower, second vice-commander; Art Krusat, Chaplain, and the elected directors being Pete Mahrt, and H.A. Schoenberger. Legionnaire Schoenberger is the present adjutant under Commander Grimm's administration.

POSTMASTER ROBERT V. NEWELL

and Staff

cordially invite you to attend

THE DEDICATION and OPEN HOUSE

of the new

POST OFFICE

Saturday, August 2, 1969 — 2:00 P.M.

Twentynine Palms, California 92277

1969 Invitation to dedication of Twentynine Palms new Post Office.

Fri. Aug. 18, 1944

ASTONISHING, to say the least, are the figures in the post office tabulation at the left which was completed this week by Postmaster Ben Steeg and which serves as a barometer to indicate the constant, healthy growth of Twentynine Palms during the last 16 years.

The first year the post office was open — in 1928 when homesteaders were gradually increasing in number — postal revenues amounted to \$169.28. As a study of the receipts will reveal, this community's progress between 1928 and 1943 has been steady and not due to promotion period such as off-times gives a "spurt" to local conditions and then a drop.

Gradually, over the course of 15 years, post office business has increased year-by-year until 1943 when revenues totaled \$12,510.55, the greatest yet. As a result of this growth, the Twentynine Palms post office has advanced from fourth to third class in nine years, and from third to second class in six years.

Post Office Receipts 16 YEAR GROWTH

Year	Postal Revenues
1928	169.28
1929	314.46
1930	456.79
1931	694.32
1932	961.04
1933	1,284.46
1934	1,486.57
1935	1,733.54
1936	2,008.24
1937	2,759.16
1938	3,880.08
1939	4,658.74
1940	5,031.81
1941	5,675.23
1942	9,446.75
1943	12,510.55



Vernetta Landers

1966 - Vernetta Landers at the corner of Landers Lane and Reche Road. Her Bobcat "Impy" is on a leash while her raven "Talkie" sits on her shoulder. Her Bobcat died at the age of twenty.



Vernetta Landers

Boy Scouts helped dedicate the home of the Landers Association.

LANDERS

By VERNETTE LANDERS

The old Landers Airstrip officially became Starshine Lane on the morning of December 28, 1988. At that time, Bill Day of Place Company under the direction of Doris Stasse, Landers Road Commissioner in charge of Landers Street Signs, installed a street sign at the corner of Reche Road and Starshine Lane, which runs north from Reche Road between Landers Lane and the Landers Moose Lodge.

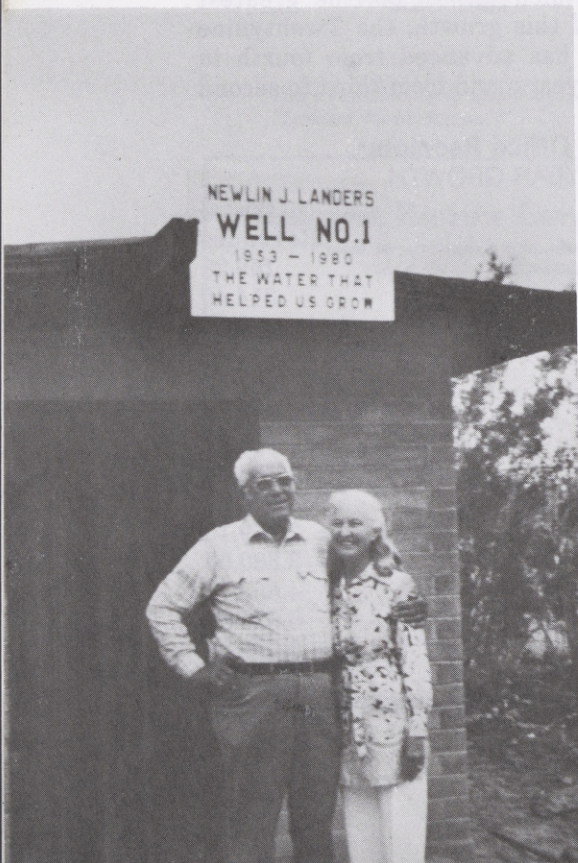
The former Landers Airstrip was started by eight flying enthusiasts: Newlin Landers, whose idea it was, George Belfield, Jack Bale, Joe Nugent, George Roth, Dr. Morris, Jack Hulet, and A.T. Stock.

These eight men figured out the legal descriptions of adjacent 5-acre government recreational tracts, four on a side, so they could plot an airstrip 2640 feet long which could be cut 100 feet wide down the center of their claims. They listed the legal descriptions on separate pieces of paper, put them in a hat, and drew lots. They all filed on the tracts at the same hour on the same day in 1950 at the Bureau of Land Management in Los Angeles.

That same year, two other fliers, Marvin Graves and Dick Adams, obtained tracts in the area and joined with the first eight to put in the airstrip. They pooled their resources, and Dick Adams became the treasurer. They brought in bulldozers, trucks and graders to develop the airstrip and blaze trails to their sites.

Standing in front of the Newlin Landers Well No. 1 - Note the sign. "The water that helped us grow."

Vernetta Landers





Vernette Landers

Landers Garden Club beautifying the corner of Reche Road and Highway 247.



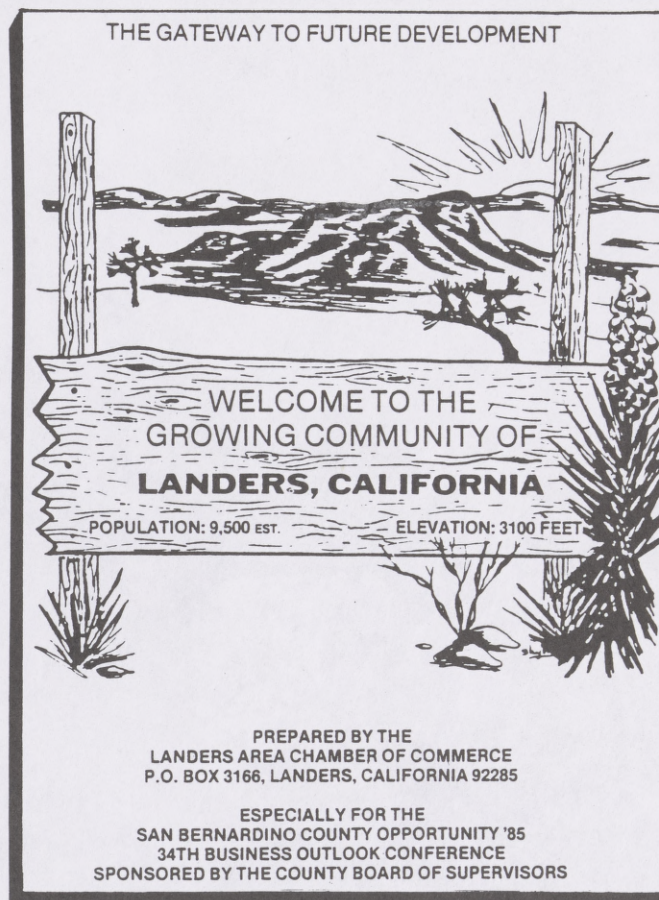
Newlin Landers and Jack Bale staked the airstrip. After the airstrip was graded, truck load after truck load of decomposed granite was hauled in to give it body and surface. Then it was watered down and packed. When resources and labor were exhausted, Newlin Landers had Lafferty of Joshua Tree finish the airstrip at Newlin's expense.

In 1954, the Landers Airstrip appeared on the Geodetic Survey map of Emerson Lake, California. Following this, it appeared on World Air Charts and Sectional Charts.

Joe Nugent owned six planes and promoted air charters to remote places. He plotted a plane haven at Landers and hung up a wind sock. Friends from all over flew in for weekends.

Illness, death and other demands changed the lives and interests of the original fliers. Others who used the airstrip did not contribute to its maintenance and support. Eventually, the airstrip was x-ed out at the request of local residents who began to use it for a roadway.

Through the efforts of Doris Stasse, the proper papers were filed to make the old Landers Airstrip an official street. The name Starshine was selected, because often the stars would shine so brightly on the old airstrip planes could take off and land at night without landing lights on the field.



Advertising Landers!



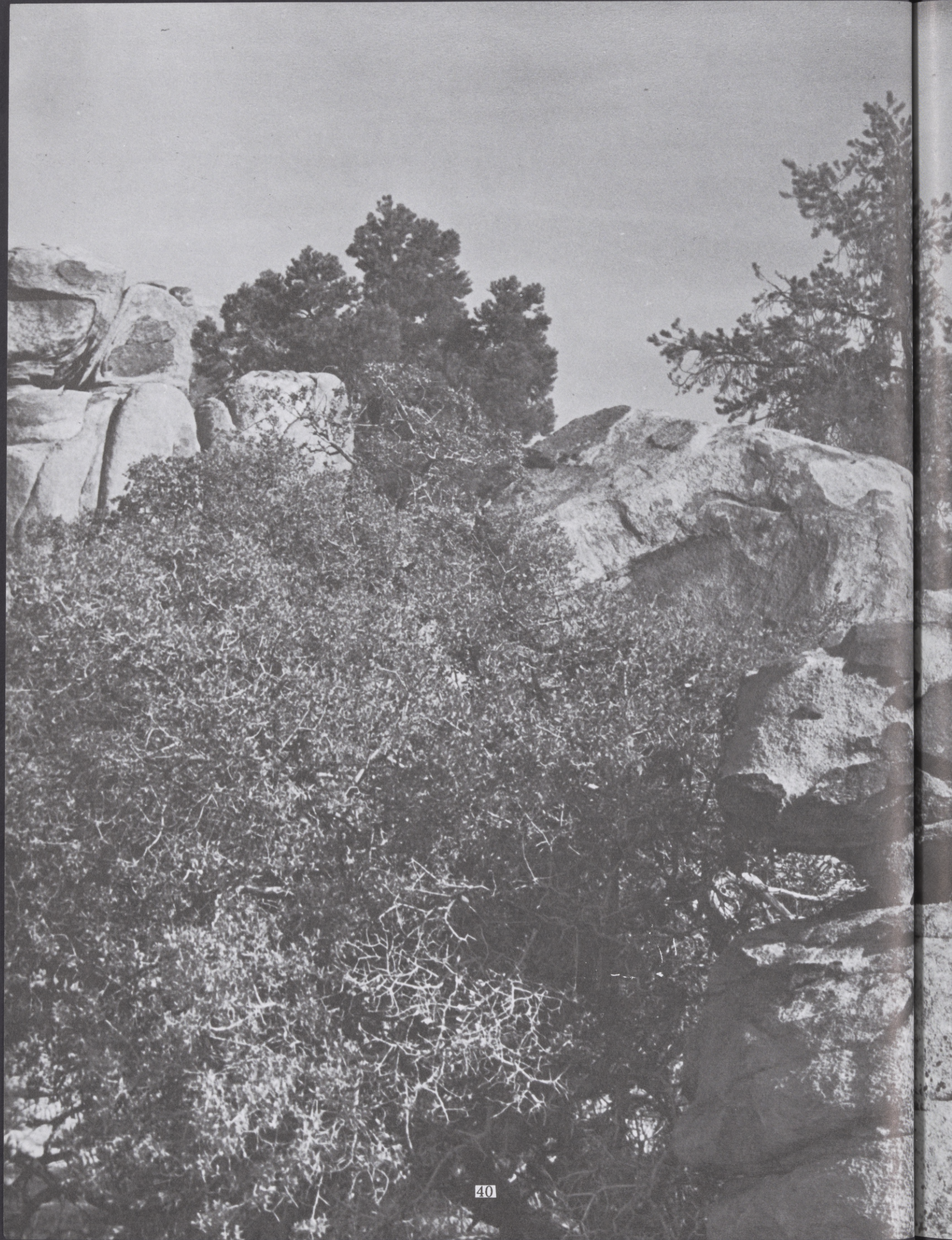
Vernette Landers

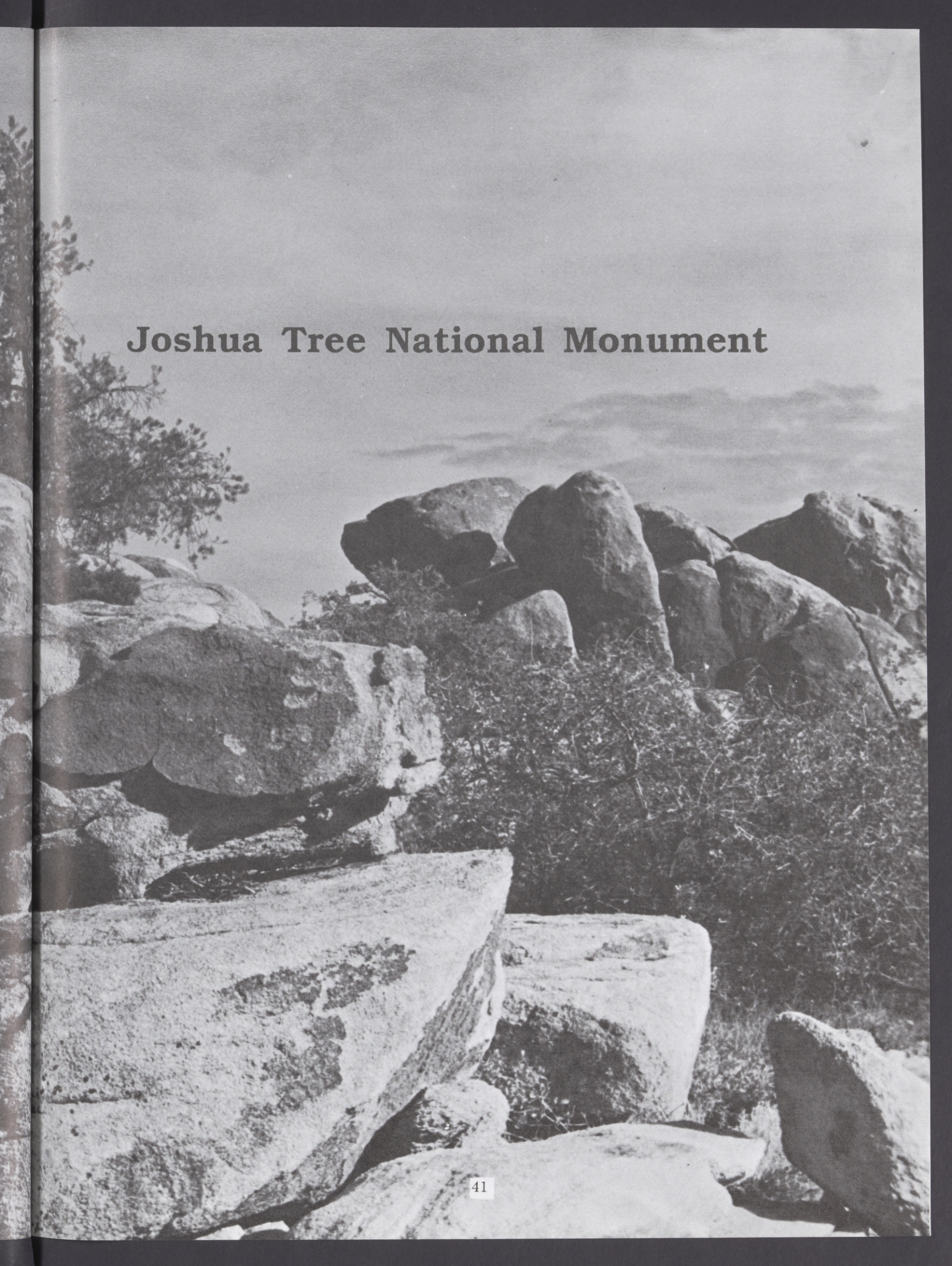
1985 — Landers Loyal Order of Moose

Vernette Landers

Goat Mt. Water District on Landers Lane





A black and white photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are large, light-colored, angular rock formations. A dense, dark, scrubby bush is situated in the middle ground, partially obscuring the rocks. To the left, a small, spiky-leaved tree is visible. The background shows a vast, flat desert floor under a clear, light-colored sky. The overall scene is arid and rugged.

Joshua Tree National Monument

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL
MONUMENT
"THE WONDERLAND OF ROCKS"
1953

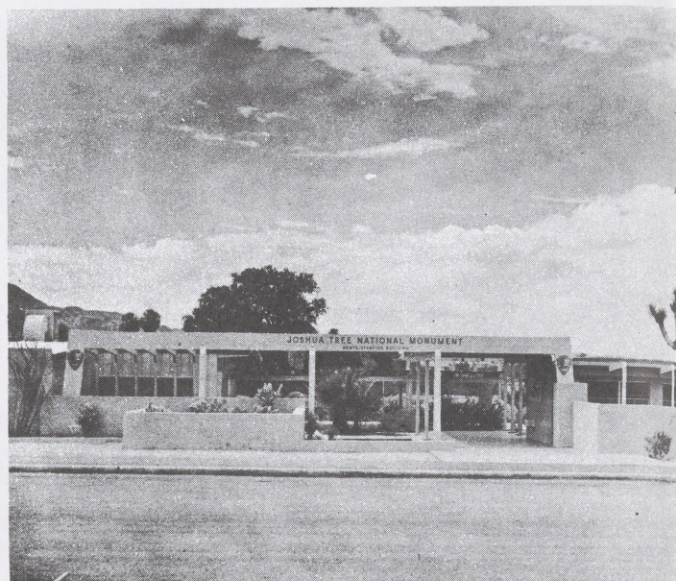
If all the scenic wonders displayed in the Nation's preserved domains there is none that offers the sightseer a wider variety of natural wonders than those contained in the vast High Desert terrain designated by Presidential decree as Joshua Tree National Monument.

From a region once but known to a few intrepid explorers, mineral fortune-seeking prospectors, and trappers it is rapidly becoming a Mecca of breathtaking survey for an ever growing multitude of tourists. Still in its infancy as a tourist bourne it is destined to become one of the country's most choice offerings for the lovers of Nature's prodigious, awe-inspiring, soul-stirring scenic and flora and fauna displays.

Joshua Tree National Monument defies comparison. It is not like this place, that place, or the other. It is vividly alone in its Ripleyish "believe it or not." Its stand of weird arm-flinging Joshua Trees, its dizzying acres of colorful cacti, its seasonable wildflower spreads, its bird and strange animal life, compose a world of delight of thrills and educational treats for myriads of nature worshippers.

Joshua Tree National Monument is not a place for speedy auto touring, for cursory glimpses of its superb panorama, rock, floral and other superlative wonders. It calls for pause and contemplation, for leisurely and studious procedure. It is a wide-flung shrine deserving of peaceful scrutiny and veneration. Those who pass its portals should leave the world of turmoil and speed lust in their wake and invest themselves with the spirit of reposeful and purposeful observation. Such nature appreciative visitors, taking departure at day's ebbing or under the canopy of desert land's blazing galaxy of stars, carry with them memories that will not dim with time.

By proclamation on August 10, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, obeying the wishes of the Department of the Interior and an array of sponsors of the project, established the Joshua Tree National Monument as an endowment for the Nation and its people for untold generations to



Joan S. Collection

Headquarters of the Joshua Tree National Monument at the Oasis in Twentynine Palms. There is a nature trail through the Oasis. The Visitors' Center houses a fine collection of wild flowers, Indian artifacts and photographs.

The Joshua Tree, after which the Monument is named, abounds here in many forms.



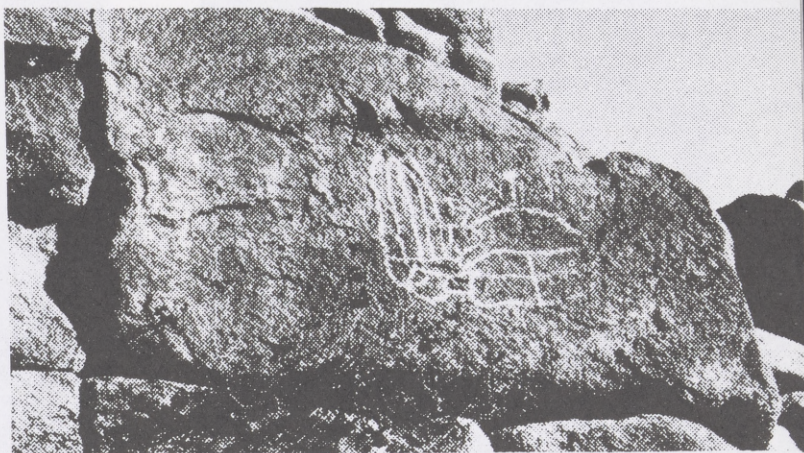
Neal Vocke

come. Largely responsible for the President's action was the indefatigable campaigning of two southern California desert devotees. These were the late Mrs. A. Sherman-Hoyt of South Pasadena, President of the International Desert Conservation League and John Phillips of Banning who was then an Assemblyman and later to become a State Senator.

Mrs. Sherman-Hoyt and John Phillips and their conservation cause associates won the support of government officials to safe-guard through monument creation the great stands of Joshua trees, acres of cacti and other growths as well as wildlife against the depredations of vandals. They feared, and rightly so, that without Federal guardianship they were liable to extinction. Vandalism came under firm control along with an assurance of flora and fauna perpetuation with the presidential ukase.

In the early years of the National Monument it took courage indeed for those who would feast their eyes with its offerings. The road leading from the main outer world highways to the Monument entrances at Joshua Tree and Twentynine Palms was as fearsome and anatomy-jolting as the proverbial "rock road to Dublin." But nevertheless as the venturesome told of their findings and the Monument's fame spread across the land the trickle of sightseers grew in volume.

In country like this the word Monument seems totally appropriate.

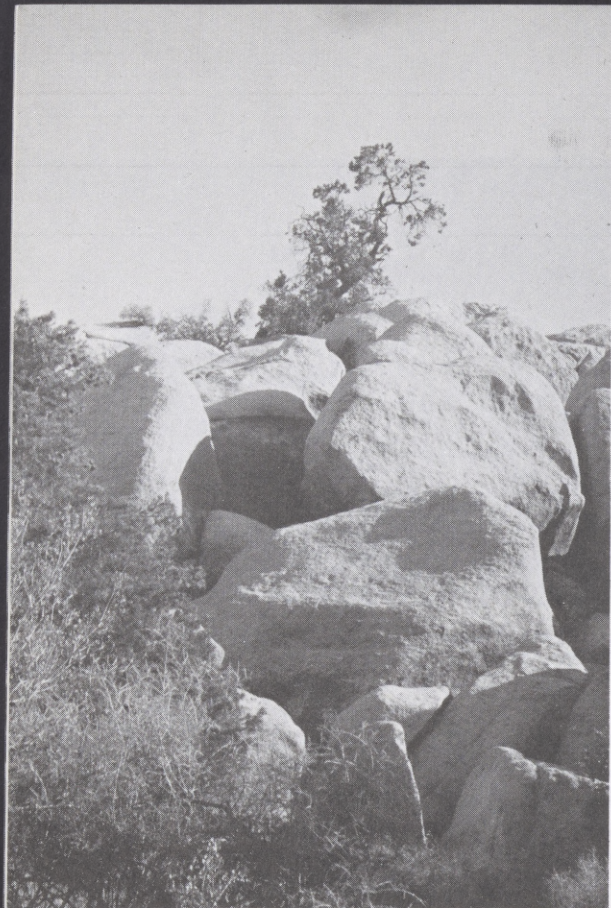


Signs of those who were here before us. Hopefully we'll care for it as well as they did.

It was not until 1941 that the National Park Service, custodians of the Monument, began to record the number of visitors. That year 23,964 individuals barged through valleys and hairpin passes and drowsy desert hamlets to explore the wonderland of a billion years creation. Since then, with the exception of the years 1943, 1944 and 1945, there has been a tremendous increase in visitors. In 1943 the visitors totaled 17,179 and in 1944 they slumped to a low of 9,250 with an uprise to 14,560 in 1945. In 1946 the number of visitors increased to 34,420. In 1952 there were 90,560 visitors. This year from January 1 to May 31 there were 100,375 visitors and they are likely to near the 200,000 mark before the year is out.

The original size of the park called for 1,136,000 acres of land but this was altered by the National Park Service before being submitted to the President for approval. And, too, since the establishment of the Monument thousands of acres of sparse growth, without particular claim for conservation but with some proven or potential mineral value, has been restored to public domain. Today the Monument has a gross acreage of 577,934 of which 427,096 acres represent Federal ownership.

The Monument of priceless natural heritage receives its name from the giant lily which was dubbed Joshua Tree by the early Mormons who penetrated the desert country. To them the strange growth with upflung branches suggested a religious soul engaged in heavenly supplication. They decided to name it in honor of the Prophet Joshua, and Joshua Tree it has remained and is likely to remain despite the protestations of unromantic and factual botanists who aver and declare it to be none other than *Yucca brevifolia*.

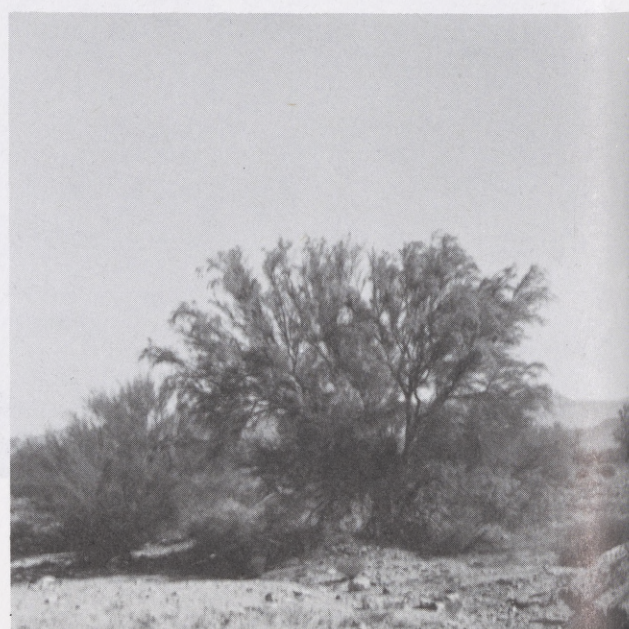


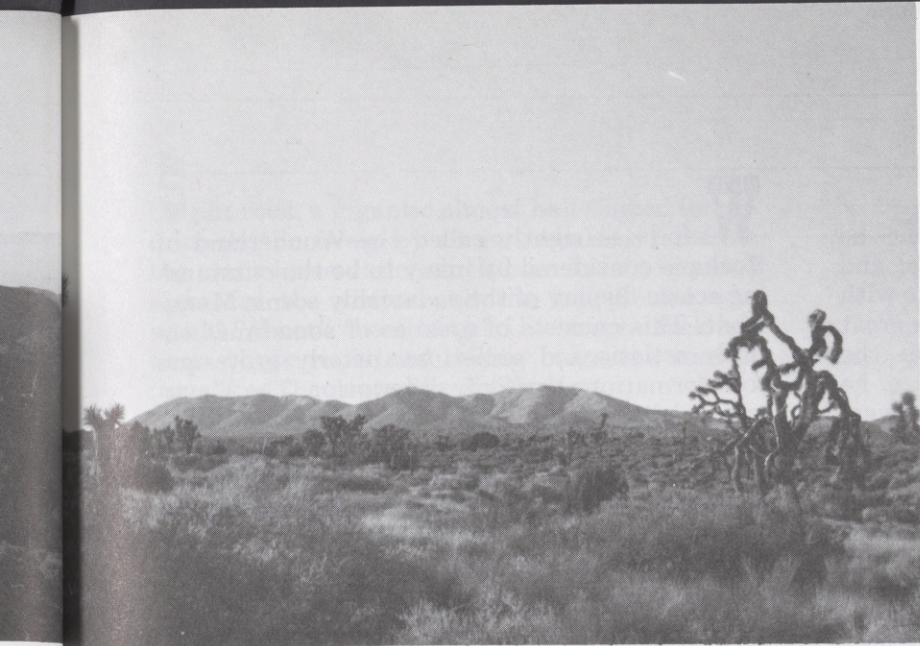
Monument Photo



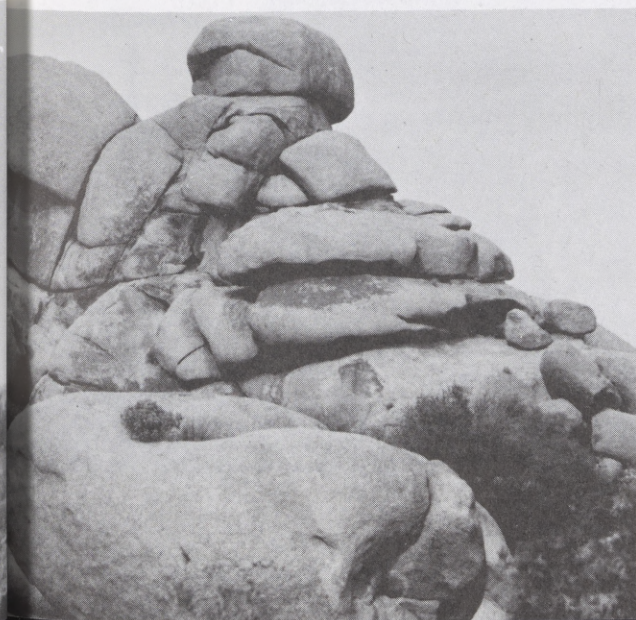
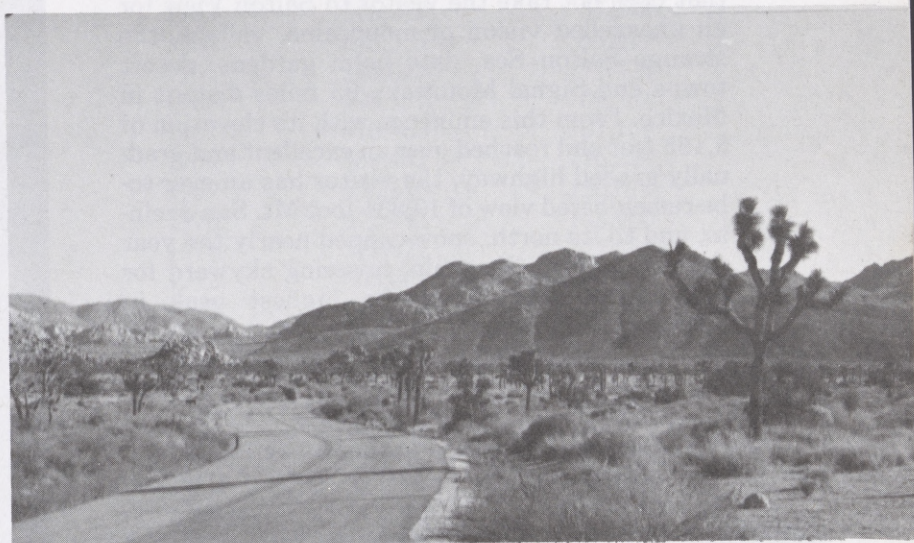
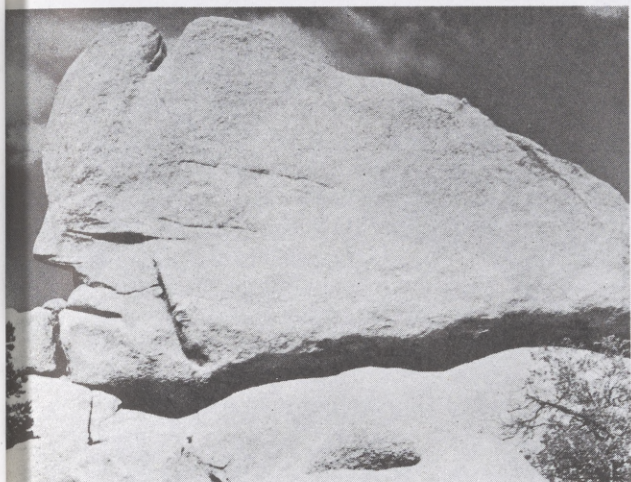
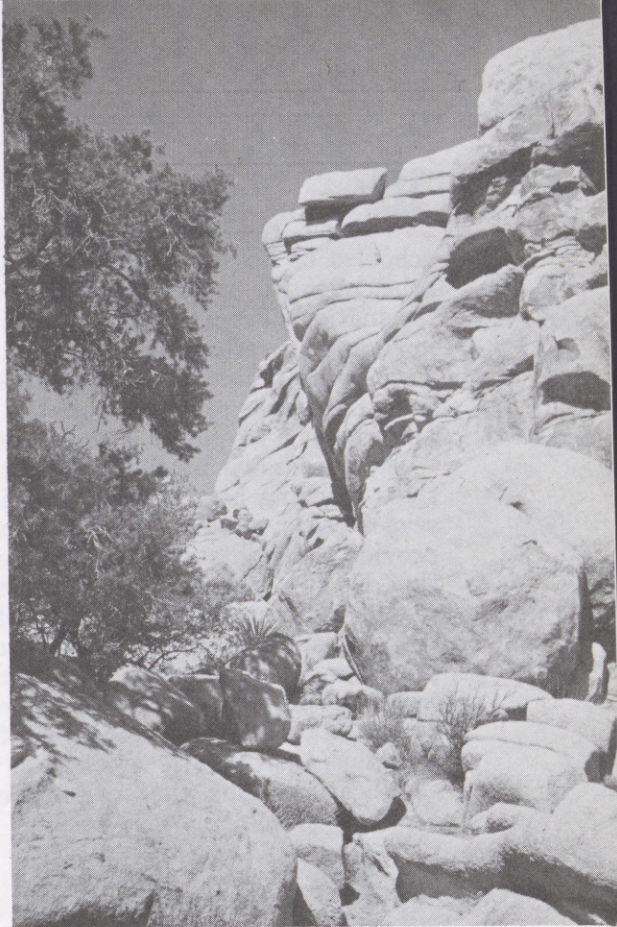
In these pages are examples of the diverse composition of Joshua tree National Monument. There are photographs from Keys View, top center left to Hidden Valley, upper right corner. The lower right corner shows the main house at Key Ranch. Lower left corner is a view of Queens Valley, as is the extreme right center. As can be seen on other photos, the rock formations in the Monument are spectacular. The left center photo is of the Coxcomb Mountains in the eastern section of the Monument. Can you find the horse at the left of the photo? The sculptured rock at right center has many names. We call it "the chief."

If you are seeking tranquility and peace of mind, it can be found within the borders of the Monument. There are abandoned homesteads like the Ryan place near Ryan Campground, and the Worth Bagley place near Barker Dam. The Joshua Tree National Monument is a beautiful corner of the world, and it's right here in the Morongo Basin. Be proud of it — take care of it. It cannot be replaced.





t Photo Notes



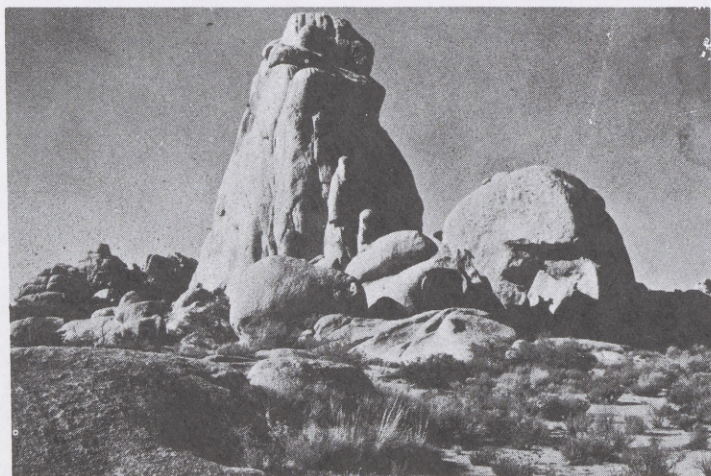
Whether the visitor to the Monument be schooled or not in its botanical, geological and other scientific presentments he finds it rife with fascinations. From the time he rolls into the great government reserve, whether it be from the Twentynine Palms or Joshua Tree entrance, he finds himself as removed from the world of weal and woe as a jet-planer sped to Mars.

The impressive array of Joshua trees, many of them reaching heights of 40 feet and bearing in season cream-white blossoms of angular beauty, provide the sightseer with exercises of imagination. No two trees are exactly alike and many of them assume strange postures in which the imaginative discern the figures of queer creatures. The picture-minded observer finds fun in spotting trees that portray queer creature characters, birds and beasts. And, too, he will find as did the Mormons, particularly at dusk of day, trees of supplicating arms that symbolize the ancient Prophet whose name they bear.

No visit to the Monument is a complete success that does not take the visitor to Salton View for an unexcelled vision of mountains, valleys, the strange Salton Sea, date palm gardens, desert towns and Signal Mountain, 95 miles distant in Mexico. From this eminence with its elevation of 5,185 feet and reached over an excellent and gradually graded highway, the visitor has an ever-to-be-remembered view of 10,831 foot Mt. San Jacinto, and to its north, snow-capped nearly the year round, Mt. San Gorgonio, towering skyward for 11,485 feet and being the highest peak in Southern California.

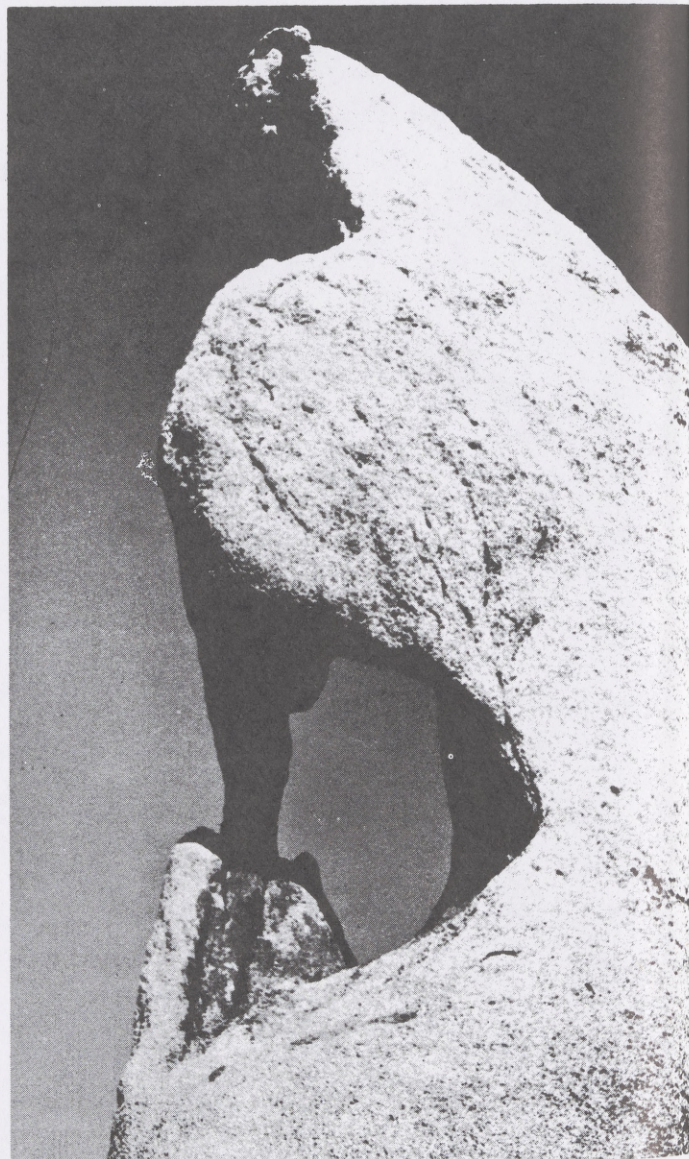
One of the myriad displays that give this park the deserved name of, "The Wonderland of Rocks."

Ed Malone



What is so rightly called the Wonderland of Rocks is considered by many to be the outstanding scenic display of the so-lavishly scenic Monument. This consists of a series of sometimes entirely artistic and sometimes utterly grotesque rock formations that defy description. The Monument visitor finds the rock formations carved by the wind of ages, to be illustrative of almost everything he can imagine. He sees the battlements and turrets of ancient fortresses, grinning gnomes, whale heads, witch profiles, angel figures, toads, turtles, and elephants to no end. It is erosion's gallery of fantastic statuary.

Sheephead Rock is just one of the life forms that can be seen in the Monument. Look for Cap Rock, Skull Rock, and the Arch.



Split rock, a gigantic almost ball shaped formation, cleft in twain by an earthshaking fall from the eroded mountain which bore it, is a required sight for the visitor and the lens hound who would "shoot" the unusual. Under split rock is a cave whose walls and ceiling bears the soot of campfires that antedate civilization.

That ancient man trod the Monument terrain is evidenced by artifacts found in mountainside caves and in campsites of the long-ago dwellers who preceded the oldest strain of Indian inhabitants. Pinto points which tipped the darts, hurled with throwing sticks by people who roamed the Monument region almost a thousand centuries ago have been found along with stone artifacts in the sands and among rocks that once bordered a lake that existed as far back as the Pleistocene period.

Hidden Valley, surrounded entirely by a formidable wall of rocks and with an entrance that is largely a rock tunnel, is a place deserving of attention. It is an ideal hideaway and was the retreat in gun-blazing days ago of cattle rustlers who holed up there as the sheriff and his posse sought them for a hempen festival.

The Monument is big and its attractions many, too many to be seen properly in a short visit, but the visitor does well to set a schedule that will permit a trip through the great cacti gardens for a picnic at Cottonwood Spring. It is a true oasis in a great desert land, providing as it does a water supply for palms, the cottonwood trees that give the spring its name and desert creatures that flock there to quench their thirst.

The outstanding offerings of Joshua Tree National Monument can be seen in a somewhat hurried day's tour but that does not mean anything of a thorough acquaintance with its wonders. Several days of leisurely travel with ample time for studious inspection is the proper program for the visitor who would really know the joys of discovery.

It is a world apart, a world of peace, a world of scenic splendor where the visitor, easing into the tempo set for relaxation and inspiration will experience a spiritual uplift that will remain with him on his return to the outside world where men strive in vain to out race time. ●

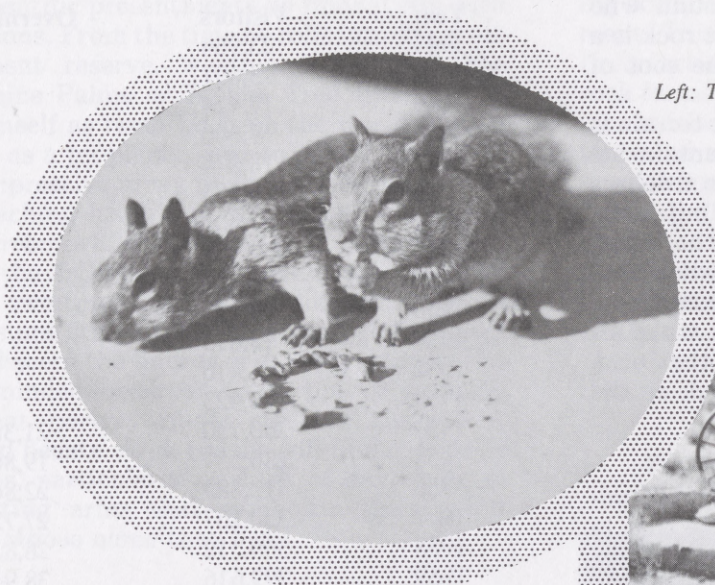
JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Total Visitors for Years 1941 through 1988

Year	Visitors	Overnight
1941	23,964	
1942	23,691	
1943	17,414	
1944	7,640	
1945	18,275	
1946	36,605	
1947	57,801	
1948	59,157	
1949	66,991	
1950	79,129	
1951	93,615	
1952	141,416	
1953	172,423	
1954	260,730	21,384
1955	280,559	19,860
1956	312,889	22,868
1957	320,267	27,729
1958	365,312	28,816
1959	299,616	38,947
1960	320,084	40,823
1961	301,524	41,108
1962	331,458	45,955
1963	346,277	57,248
1964	343,363	65,019
1965	336,021	79,728
1966	408,577	89,761
1967	416,460	107,169
1968	489,441	116,224
1969	550,323	130,074
1970	642,993	143,906
1971	577,822	172,822
1972	605,462	174,053
1973	593,012	139,302
1974	503,881	139,979
1975	554,362	154,729
1976	731,822	151,771
1977	748,441	169,980
1978	605,132	164,503
1979	593,002	157,785
1980	547,722	
1981	615,490	
1982	676,180	
1983	674,384	
1984	666,555	
1985	643,998	
1986	786,299	
1987	833,341	
1988	958,958	

Many thanks to Chief Naturalist, Bill Truesdell, for the help he gave me.
J.W.





Left: The Antelope Ground Squirrel.

JOSHUA TREE



The Joshua Tree Blossom.



*From out of the past.
The Keys mail box.*

JOSHUA TREE

By Mary Ford

Joshua Tree, western gateway to the Joshua Tree National Monument, was first planned by Lacey and Company in 1937. Frank H. and Donald Ayers formed a corporation, the "Joshua Tree Townsite Company," shortly afterward and set up offices in the desert area along the Twentynine Palms Road. Frank Batters, who had been with the original developers, stayed on with the Ayers group as real estate salesman and water manager.

During the war, gas rationing prevented the growth of far-out desert areas, and most of the people who were living in the high desert before the end of the war were homesteaders or health seekers.

Chester Bunker, his wife and son, William, moved to Joshua Tree in 1942. Charles and Sarah Mitchell came with them. Bunker went into the real estate business, Mitchell working as his salesman. Sarah helped organize the Women's Club.

Jack and Helen Branthoover and Colonel E.B. Moore and the Bathe Construction Co. all arrived in Joshua Tree just after World War II.

The Whitehorn Ranch, which had been started years earlier, was completed and had a swimming pool. Ray and Jean Rees became the managers until the Willeys took it over. Nellie Willey became the Woman's Club president in the early 1950's.

John Duncan moved to Joshua Tree in 1944 and is still active in real estate.

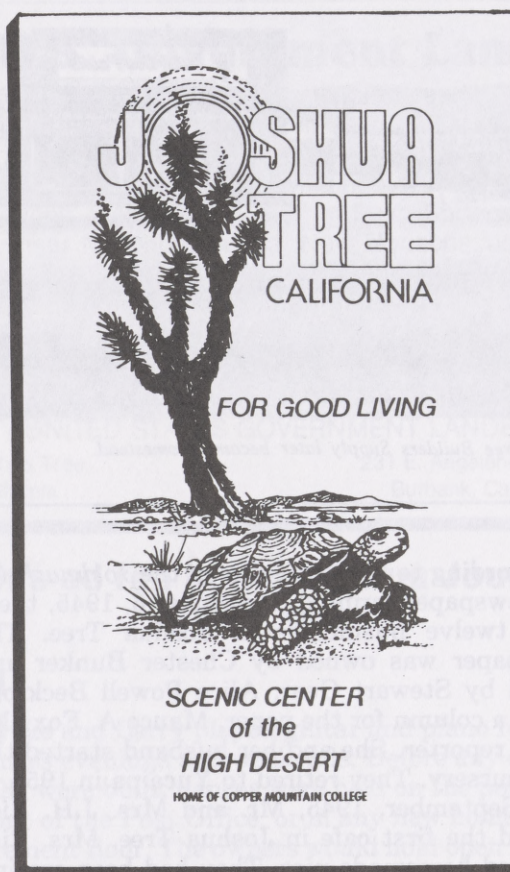
Fred Moninger, an architect, opened a designing-drafting service. Most of the buildings in Pioneertown were designed by him, with plenty of Old West flavor. He has lured tourists from Los Angeles and San Diego to Joshua Tree where they would be put up for the week at Aunt May Hibbard's, who served them good country cooking. Aunt May had built her home in the early forties, and was anxious to get neighbors.

Coulter's Guest House . . . "apartments with a home atmosphere" . . . were built soon after. The building houses the *Joshua Journal* and is owned by Bert Gholson.

Mary Ford moved to Joshua Tree in 1946. She lived in the Ford's Lodge, a convalescent home.

Chris Sorensen opened the Joshua Tree Barber Shop, although he had come to Joshua Tree to retire, but the demand for his services soon put him back to work.

About 1946, Fred and Nan Marble bought the Electric Company. The Marbles now live in Yucca Valley. Fred was a pitcher on the first Cub baseball team during 1946-47.



Joshua Tree has always been proud of what it has to offer. Signs like the one above have been around, right from the beginning.

Dr. Louis Sinclair and his wife, Sally, moved to Joshua Tree for the climate. He was a chiropractor and had a practice in his home.

Joe Kasal and his wife, Maggie, opened the first service station. They came to the desert for Joe's health. The station was soon headquarters for much of the town's necessities. He stocked groceries and had the one pay telephone in town. There was a bench near the phone where customers could sit and visit while waiting to make their calls. McGill took orders for ice and hauled it from Banning in an old open truck. Often the fifty-pound chunks that were ordered had melted to thirty pounds by the time they were delivered. Joe Kasal also carried kerosene for lamps (there was no electricity) and propane tanks.

Harold and Dee Jost bought Cranes Building Supplies. They were from Banning and came to the desert for the health of their youngest son. Grandma Stacey and Dennis Jost now manage the Twentynine Palms store and Doug Sheppard is the manager of the Joshua Tree Builders Supply.



Joshua Tree Builders Supply later became Homestead.

According to the first issue of the *Joshua Journal* newspaper, printed September 6, 1945, there were twelve businesses in Joshua Tree. The newspaper was owned by Chester Bunker and edited by Stewart Gear. Alice Powell Beckford wrote a column for the paper. Mauce A. Fox also was a reporter. She and her husband started the first nursery. They retired to Yucaipa in 1954.

In September, 1945, Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Rice opened the first cafe in Joshua Tree. Mrs. Rice featured homemade pies. They had been coming to the desert for fifteen years so they were considered old-timers.

Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Becker built a variety store in 1943. Mrs. Becker started a lending library. In 1946, they moved to Yucca Valley where they built another variety store. That building now houses Foremost Men's Wear, owned by Dave and Vaal Eckenroth.

Bud and Bea Lyday built a grocery store in Joshua Tree in 1946. They later sold the store to Hubert and Grace Aldridge.

1954 Weekly Newspaper Office



Grace arranged a corner of the store as a Post Office and was Postmaster. Mail was brought out from Banning. The Post Office soon outgrew its space in the store and was moved to a building at the corner of Sunset and the hiway, where it stayed for the next ten years until a new Post Office building was constructed in its present location. Grace was Postmaster until she retired in 1969. She is now president of the Chamber of Commerce and the chairman of the Turtle Race Association.



Post Office in Joshua Tree



POSTMASTER GRACE ALDRIDGE gives a hand to carry out the mail being loaded into the new U.S. mail truck by Neva Naagteboren as she prepares to start Joshua Tree's first city delivery last Monday, Oct. 14.

Next to the grocery store was the second cafe in Joshua Tree. It was owned and operated by the Laughlins. Bertie Laughlin's brother, Charley Cotton, moved another well drilling outfit into Joshua Tree. The Laughlins sold their cafe to the Allens. Beulah Allen served four years as a School Board Trustee. They sold the cafe to Mr. and Mrs. William Longshaw, who had already purchased the store next door. The present market, taking up the whole building is owned by William and Gloria Amrine.

Gerald and Millie Pappendick and their small daughter came to Joshua Tree about 1946. They were both active in civic affairs. He is a contractor and still lives in Joshua Tree.

In 1945, Commander Jeff Overbay and a group of Legionnaires started building a Legion Hall. Before it was completed, money and donated labor became scarce, and Jeff's health slowed him down. The Sportsman's Club had started so the American Legion turned over the unfinished building to the Club for \$1.00. The building was to be used for community affairs. The children's Christmas plays and town dances were held there. Johnnie Arch and Elinore Fairbanks played for the dances. The hall was also used to house extra school classrooms when the first school became too small. The hall is now used by the Playhouse Guild as their Cabaret Theatre. The grounds are the site of the annual Turtle Races.

July 12, 1948

FREE !!! FREE

Lots - Lots - Lots

RESIDENTIAL OR BUSINESS

SALES STARTS JULY 3rd, 4th, 5th AT

"Paradise Valley Tract"

ADJACENT TO THE MENTALPHYSICS INSTITUTE

5 Miles East of Yucca Village on Twentynine Palms Highway

BUY ANY LOT ON EITHER RICHARD DRIVE OR RONALD DRIVE

\$695 to \$795— **—GET ONE FREE!**

LINDA LEE DRIVE (A DOUBLE BOULEVARD) \$995 TO \$1095

GET ONE FREE!!

THIS OFFER LIMITED TO FIRST 10 LUCKY BUYERS

OWNERS RESERVE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW OFFER AT ANY TIME

CONDITIONS—PURCHASER MUST BEGIN TO BUILD WITHIN

NINETY (90) DAYS OR RETURN THE FREE LOT TO THE SELLER

THIS OFFER ALSO APPLIES TO BUSINESS LOTS

PAVED STREETS AND WATER AT THE PROPERTY

INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE OFFER

S. Krantz

210 SO. BROADWAY LOS ANGELES 12, CALIF. MU 6381
MANAGER ON TRACT

This ad ran in July 1948. Imagine lots costing \$600 to \$700 today. Unfortunately those days are gone forever.

The Institute of Mentalphysics started building on their site just west of Joshua Tree. Dr. and Mrs. Dingle and their daughter, Gloria, had their own horses and joined in many of the local riding events. Much of the native rock in their buildings was mined by Zeke Coffin and Larry Grey.

U.S. Government Land

Do you want a small desert homestead? Gov't., 5-acre tracts selected. Priced \$10 to \$20 per acre. Surveyed by Licensed Land Surveyors \$12 to \$25 ea. NEW MAP showing thousands of 5-acre tract locations, wells, roads, etc., in Palm Springs vicinity near Morongo, Yucca, New Horizons, Joshua Tree, Twentynine Palms area. Send \$1.10 for big 15x32 inch map and full information to

COLONEL E.B. MOORE

EXPERT ON THE GREAT AMERICAN DESERT
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT LANDS

Joshua Tree,
California

231 E. Angeleno Ave.,
Burbank, California

**This ad ran in the Joshua Journal
Feb. 15, 1950**

Zeke and Larry played guitar and piano for the dances evenings and weekends. Before any of the halls were built, dances were held on the porch in front of the Post Office, or in any new home with a cement floor. The owners would hold open house the whole town would turn out.

The Joshua Tree Cub Baseball Team was formed with every able-bodied man in town trying out. Claude Irwin was the first coach. Later, Hubert Aldridge was coach. Bob and Patty Garry were just married and were the managers of the new Shell station. Bob was third baseman.

Gus Ojala was catcher. Tommy Humpreville and another player from Yucca Valley joined the team. The first year they won the cup from Twentynine Palms. There were always plenty of rooters in the grandstand and in the cars parked around the field. They took up collections to buy baseball suits and pay expenses.

In July, 1946, the Chamber of Commerce raised \$1500 to start a new temporary school building. The Joshua Tree Community Association took over the project. Mrs. Beard, Mrs. Ojala and Mrs. Lyday canvassed the whole town for donations of money and labor. The building was ready for use when school opened in September. There were forty-five students and one teacher... elderly and small. The kids could get pretty noisy and unruly, and were getting away with it. Curley Herbst, a local builder and ex-paratrooper, was conscripted as an "extra" teacher. The first time the kids started getting out of hand, Curley yelled "Shut up!" at them and from then on there was discipline.



1962 - Frank Batters, long time resident, and town booster of Joshua Tree promoted a sign to be erected on Highway 99 near the intersection of 29 Palms Highway. Old Highway 99 is now Interstate 10.

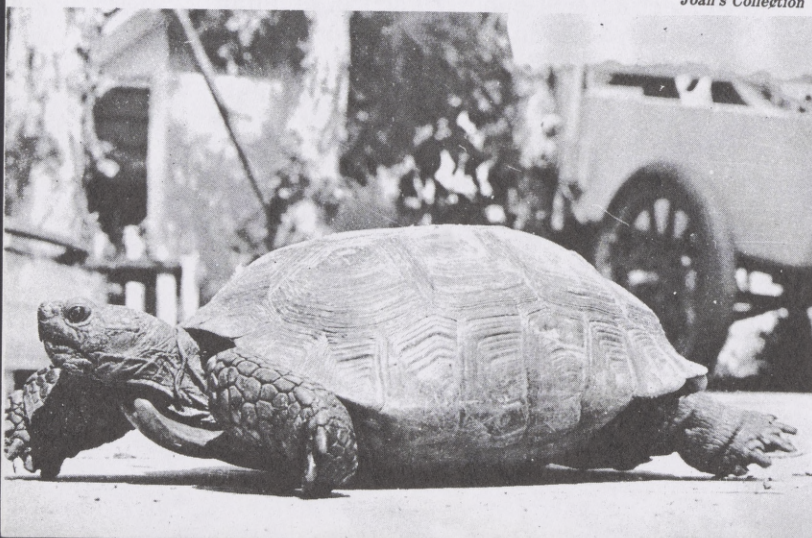


Joan's Collection

1957 - A newly remodeled Moonstone Cafe. The late Carl O'Brien was the owner.

The Desert Tortoise - The symbol of the Joshua Tree Turtle Races.

Joan's Collection



Joan's Collection

Joshua Tree: Way back when. Note prices.

Joshua Tree



Joan's Collection

1970 Grace Alldridge, was installed of the Joshua Tree Chamber Commerce Aug. 31, by Walter Woods (right), Robert Nordyke was of ceremonies.

THE QUEEN COMMITTEE

Left to right: Mrs. Harrison Frederick, Chaiman, Mrs. Gladys Taylor, Mrs. Molly Benson who will serve for the sorority as the Turtle Race committee during the reign of the queen for 1964.

Joan's Collection





Joan's Collection

1963 Master David Easter, age 9 and Miss Ruby Weslow, age 6 being honored at the 1963 turtle races.

Photo Notes



Joan's Collection

Board of Directors installed to serve the Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce area: from left: seated, Paul Wishek and Ralph Davis; Back — Walter Atnow, Tony Joyce and Charley L. Coleman.



A view of Highway 60 to 99 in the fifties. The white signboard housed the sign shown on the upper left corner of this spread. The highway is now Interstate 10.

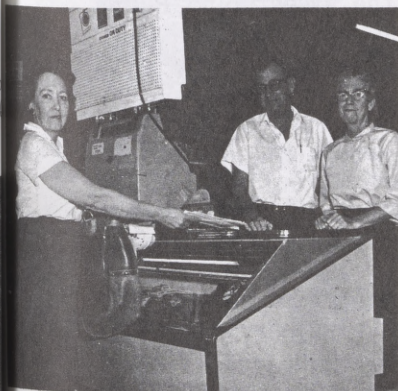


Joan's Collection

The 1960 Turtle Races.

The symbol of the turtle races and the main float & theme of the parade.

Joan's Collection



Joan's Collection

FIRST BUSINESS PLACE is Desertaire in Joshua Tree to receive mail by city carrier Neva Naagteboren. Receiving the mail are Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gibson. Desert Journal Photo.

APTA was organized with Johnnie Beard as president, Mary Ojala, secretary-treasurer, and Alma Lee as historian.

Bert and Johnnie Beard and their two children had moved to Joshua Tree for their daughter's health. She was asthmatic. Anna Lea Beard grew up strong and healthy and in 1958 was chosen queen of the Turtle Races. Eunice King was the first queen.

Jack S. Raub, a surveyor, and his wife had built their home on Mt. View. In 1946 they sold it to Gus and Mary Ojala. Gus was a welder, working with Jack Mills, well driller.

Later the Ojalas bought the welding business from Roger Clark, and Mary Ojala started the first beauty shop in Joshua Tree. Since there was no electricity, the women getting their hair shampooed or set were grateful for the desert sunshine to dry it.

About this time Cliff Sufdy brought his well drilling equipment to the desert and opened an office. He still maintains his headquarters in Joshua Tree.

In 1948 the new temporary school building was too small for all the youngsters in Joshua Tree, even with double sessions. The Sportsmen's Hall was called into service and classes were held there. A new school had been built in Yucca Valley and when the school district was consolidated, all students attended school in Yucca Valley and Twentynine Palms. Then, in 1958 a beautiful elementary school was built just north of Sportsman's Hall in Joshua Tree.

Taken from the 1971 Grubstake Days brochure.

The Joshua Tree Women's Club was federated in 1947.

Ida and Bill Boyce bought the grocery store on Center Street and operated it for almost twenty years. When they retired, they sold it to Dennis Murphy, who is now with the Circle K Markets. James Shearn added two buildings. One housed Helen Gearhardt's Variety Store.

John Basset built a drug store but there was no pharmacist available and it was bought by Jerry Shaeffer and became Jerry's Cafe. It is now owned by Johnnie Erreca, who added a cocktail lounge.

Another drug store was built in Joshua Tree, but there was still no pharmacist. It was first used as a shop and is now Arturo's Mexican Restaurant.

Back in 1946 a tourist asked a land company sales man what the local people did for excitement. "Why," he answered, "we race turtles!"

So Joshua Tree held its first Turtle Races along the side of the highway where travelers could stop awhile and join in the fun. The Races are now an annual event held on the first weekend in May.●



GRACE ALDRIDGE

*First Postmaster in Joshua Tree
She started in July 1946 and served
until she retired on September 17,
1969.*

JOSHUA TREE'S 1ST POSTMASTER TO RETIRE

Joshua Tree Postmaster Grace Aldridge will retire Sept. 17, after 23 years of service as Joshua Tree's only postmaster.

It was July, 1946, when Mrs. Aldridge became the town's first postmaster in the first Post Office in the Joshua Tree Market.

The Post Office moved in 1952 to 29 Palms Hwy. and Sunset and in 1957 to its present location, Commercial and Park Blvd.

Mrs. Aldridge formerly worked at the old Army Air Cadet Base where the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base now stands.

When Mrs. Aldridge began as postmaster, there were about 300 persons receiving mail at the little Joshua Tree outpost. Today, she says about 4,500 persons receive mail at the Joshua Tree Post Office.

She will be replaced, temporarily, by Harold Chester, a retired Marine, who lives in Twentynine Palms. He will be assigned as postal clerk in charge of the office until a new postmaster can be found.

Mrs. Aldridge said she has enjoyed her many years of service in the Post Office and has enjoyed working with the many people "In and out of the Post Office." She said she will certainly continue living in Joshua Tree.●

Aug. 20, 1947

JOSHUA TREE, August 14 — Take notice citizens, there is a street sign in Joshua Tree — yea in fact there are two, but the last one is more significant in that it is on the boulevard.

It is at the corner of the Twentynine Palms Highway and Center Street (not the street that is in the center of town), but the street that actually has that name, which is 1 block east of the center of town.

What? Has it come to this that it takes civic minded people with a dollar or two to spare to supply the town with the street signs that have been promised by the Chamber of Commerce for the past year?

Well, be as it may, hats off to Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks of Fred and Sammies Market to have "done this civic deed."

They found that so few people knew there was a Center Street in Joshua Tree, and that only a selected few possessed a map of the town, that friends who had come from the "city," upon asking at various other places of business in town, were not able to find such a street. To solve this problem they have placed, at their own expense, a street sign post.

Dr. Louis Sinclair was the first to do so, for a long time ago he had one placed at the corner of his property. Perhaps that is one sure way we will have street signs if every property owner will supply at least one on his street—then after that is done, what about street lights and paving? Poor property owner.



A FREE NEWSPAPER FOR A FREE PEOPLE IN A FREE COUNTRY

Copyright August, 1946 by Edith von Radesky

A FREE Weekly Newspaper

Published in the interest of the Valley

From Highway 99-66 and Whitewater to Twentynine Palms

Edith von Radesky, Publisher

Main Office, Joshua Tree, Post Office Box 112

Entered at the U. S. Post Office at 29 Palms, Calif., Permit 1

Under the act of March 2nd, 1909, Sec. 562.

STAFF

Edith von Radesky.....	EDITOR
Dorothy Russell	Morongo Valley
Elinore Leavitt	Yucca Valley
Louise Williams	Joshua Tree
Marion E. Loyer	29 Palms
Glennis Crane	Staff Artist
Harlow Jones	Staff Photographer
Norma D. Peppin.....	Business Manager

JOSHUA TREE, Aug. 27—Joshua Tree Country Club is taking form rapidly, many people of prestige and world renown are becoming vitally interested in Joshua Tree as a mecca for the new age activities.

And many of these activities will center around the Joshua Tree Country Club. All creations take form around an ideal, and then the foundation is put under the ideal.

The Joshua Tree Country Club is almost ready for its foundation.

—Deser View Newspaper

ROAD TO JOSHUA TREE

Oh, over the mountains and through the pass
Where winds and sands oft blow
To stop at Hadley's for a treat
Then back to the road we go.

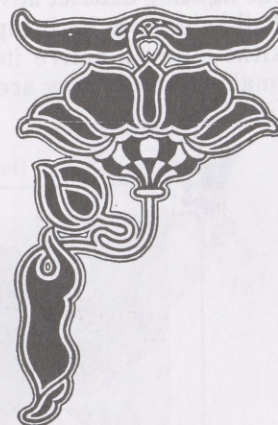
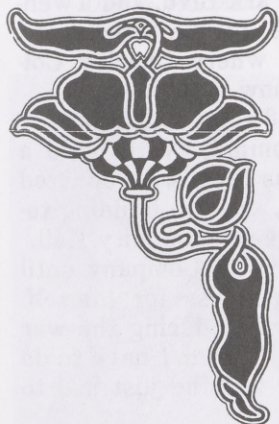
Oh, what a sight now as windmills wave
And smoke trees bow down low
Desert Hot Springs call from the hills
But onward and upward we go.

Oh, soar to the sky now so blue and clear
Through curve and bend we go
Ever upward through the hills
Our hearts are all aglow.

Oh, fly now through valleys and dales so green
Where yuccas and cactus grow
Where gently breezes kiss your cheek
At last! The double rainbow!

Oh, here is the place of God's own creation
From which I'll never roam
I, too, lift my arms to the clear blue sky
As a Joshua Tree...my home!

Rita S. Burrill October 14, 1988



John Duncan

John Duncan, 86, says he was "choking to death" with asthma in 1945 when his doctor told him that if he wanted to live he would have to leave his Fullerton home and move to the desert.

So in July of that year he and his wife moved to Joshua Tree where his asthma cleared up in three months and he says he hasn't "had a wheeze since."

There were only three businesses and about a dozen houses in Joshua Tree when John moved here and went to work for local developer, Chester Bunker. He worked for Bunker for a period and has operated his own real estate business since then.

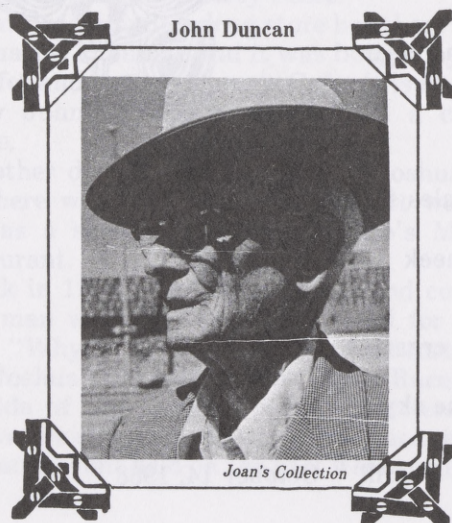
An active citizen all the time he has been in Joshua Tree, John helped form the existing Ambulance Association, helped form the park district in 1951 and was on the advisory commission for several years, he was active in the area Boy Scouts organization, and helped form the fire protection district and served as chairman of that advisory commission.

John was also active in the ten-year effort of the Baseline Highway Improvement Association in the 1950's to establish a highway (now State Route 62) from Morongo Valley through the basin to Parker, Arizona.

He is especially proud of the local lighting district which he was instrumental in organizing. The district began with 17 street lights along the highway and a \$2.56 tax rate. There are now more than 300 lights throughout the district and about a 20 cent tax rate, he said.

John just recently stepped down from his post on the lighting district advisory commission which he had held since its inception.

Although still active in real estate, John says his main interests now are "good looking gals and fishing." ●



Charlie Mitchell



Charlie Mitchell

Charles A. Mitchell, 80, said he came to Joshua Tree in January, 1945, for the same reason that is still drawing people to the high desert — the healthful climate.

He was working in a war plant in Los Angeles when his doctor told him he should move to such an area for his health. After a few months in the desert, Charlie said he went back to Los Angeles for a visit and his condition had improved so much, his doctor didn't even recognize him.

When he moved to the area and took over the sales for the Joshua Tree Townsite Company, Charlie said there were only a few shacks and three businesses here, a Standard service station at the southwest corner of Park Blvd. and Twentynine Palms Highway, the Joshua Tree Land Company office and a cafe where Charley Coleman's real estate office is now located.

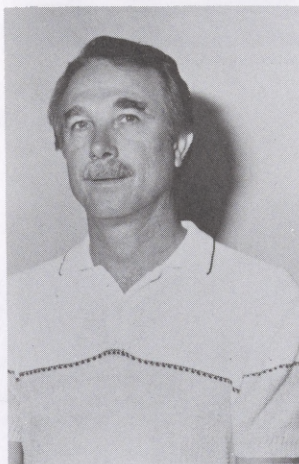
Charlie recalls that in 1946 the Land Company donated property to the community to build a school house. The school was built with donated labor and materials, he said, and the building today serves as the Joshua Tree Community Hall.

Charlie was with the Townsite Company until 1949 when he went into business for himself. Although development was slow during the war because of rationing, he said he didn't have to do much selling right after the war, he just had to write up contracts.

People were ready to move out of the metropolitan areas and they were able to buy land with money they had saved during the war, he said.

Charlie is semiretired now, but he also remains semiactive in his real estate business because he says Joshua Tree has a good future. ●

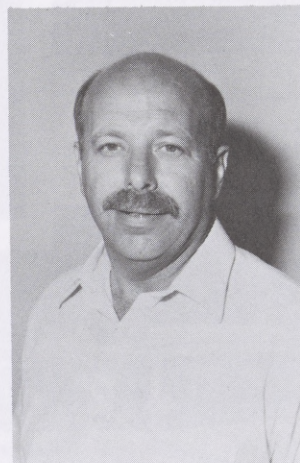
Morongo Basin Law Enforcement



*Robert Anderson
Capt. Area Commander*



*John W. Finck
Marshal, San Bernardino County*



*Marshals Sgt.
Jim Barnewolt*



*Deputy Marshal
Michael Precup*

Marshal's Office

The Morongo Basin Marshal's Office came into existence on July 2, 1979 with the formation of the Morongo Basin Division of the San Bernardino County Municipal Court District. Prior to that date, the Morongo Basin was served by a Justice Court and Constable's Office located in Twenty-nine Palms. Today the office is located in the County Government Center Building at Whitefeather Road and Highway 62 in Joshua Tree. John W. Finck is the current Marshal of San Bernardino County. The local office is presently staffed with one Sergeant, two Deputies, one Technician, and one Clerk.

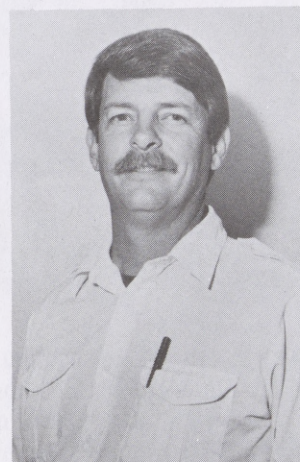
The Marshal's Office performs many services for the citizens of the Morongo Basin. We provide the Bailiff for the courtroom and serve all types of criminal and civil process (i.e.: warrants of arrest, subpoenas, evictions, civil summons, etc.).●



*Jim Williams
Deputy Marshal*



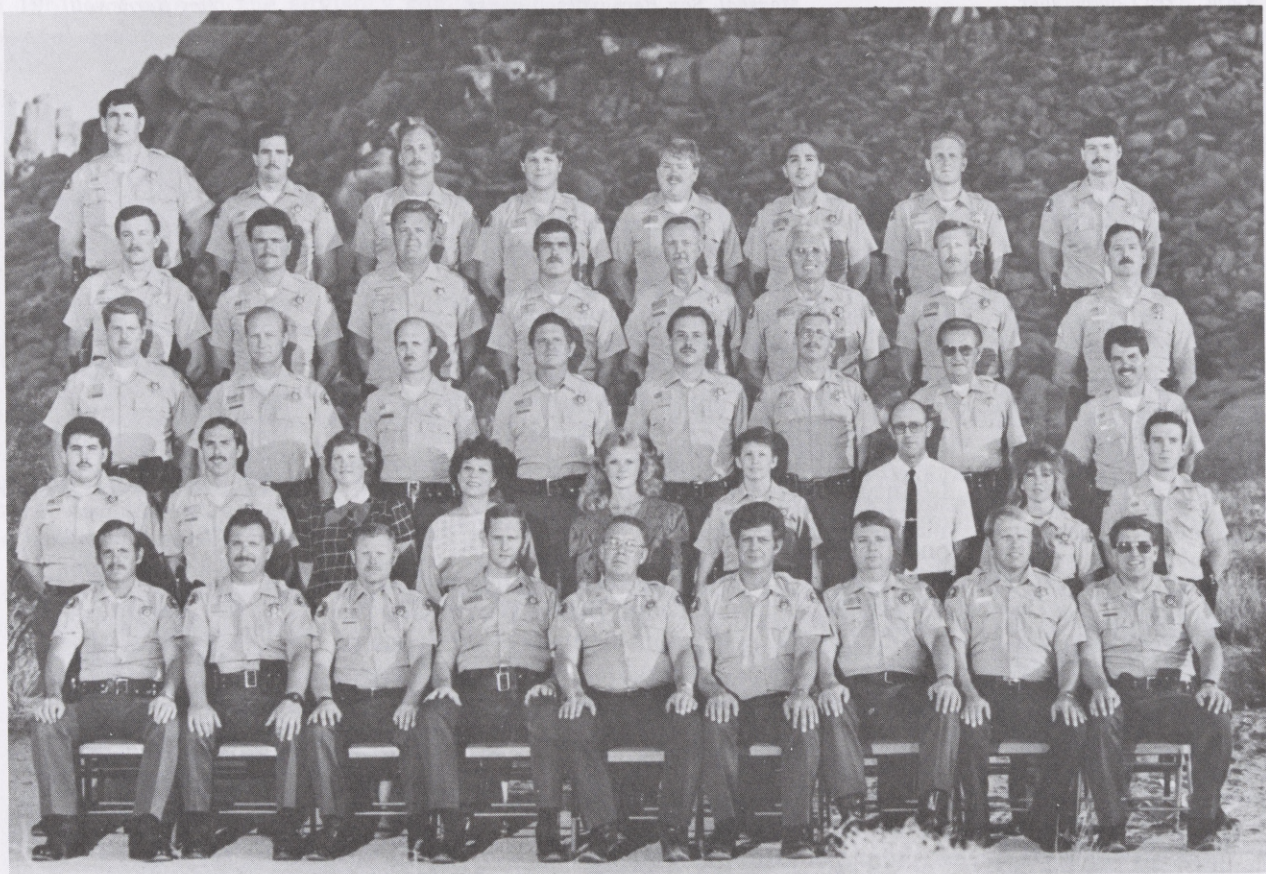
*Pam Rodriguez
Marshals Clerk II*



*Charles Vinson
Marshal Technician*

MORONGO BASIN SHERIFFS

In 1982 the Yucca Valley and Twentynine Palms Sheriff's Substations moved to its present location in the County Complex on White Feather Road and the Twentynine Palms Highway in Joshua Tree. Presently under the command of Capt. R.D. Knadler and Lt. Norm Hurst the Morongo Basin Station has forty-four sworn and ten non-sworn personnel serving the Morongo Basin. A new jail facility consisting of thirty-eight 1 person cells was constructed along with the new facility. In 1988 Detective Bob Schroeder retired from the Department after nearly twenty years of service in the Morongo Basin.



1989 San Bernardino County Sheriff's Morongo Basin Station. Front Row: Left to Right - Darryl Heller, Bob Simendich, Mike Tuttle, Norm Hurst, Dean Knadler, Al White, Trey Roderick, John Hagen, Mike McCarville. 2nd Row: Left to Right - Perry Eaton, John Ginter, Diana Reinalda, Jessica Bertheola, Linda Payne, Chuck Robertson, Carol Human, Ted Valle. 3rd Row: Left to Right - Mike Williford, Joe Yawn, Pete Lovan, Steve Flock, Scott Kecskes, Frank Neal, Ralph Rugraff, Dwight Brink. 4th Row: Left to Right - Greg Herbert, Bob Ashton, Steve Roderick, Bill Holland, Walt Roderick, Jerry Bucklin, Don Miller, Charley Teel. 5th Row: Left to Right - Bruce Bell, Ron Hall, Joe Phillips, Bob Kuhn, Doug Mefford, Glen Dixon, Berny Meelker, Jon Carver.

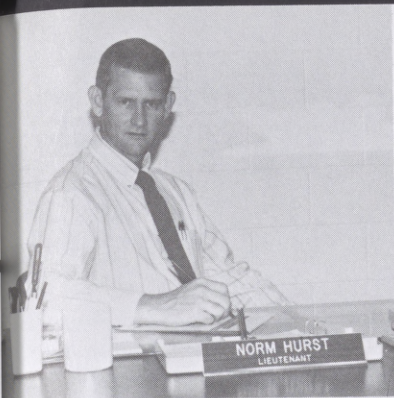


Photo by Jerry Bucklin

Station Executive Officer
Lt. Norm Hurst



Deputy Keith Farley
Memorial in Station
Deputy from 1-16-78 to 4-12-87



Photo by Jerry Bucklin

Capt. Dean Knadler
Commander — Morongo Basin
Station



Photo by Jerry Bucklin

Morongo Basin Station



The symbol of the Sheriff



Photo by Jerry Bucklin

At Station
(l) Sgt. John Hagen; (r) Dep. John Ginter



Photo by Jerry Bucklin

Evidence Room
Dewey Davis



Sheriff Floyd Tidwell

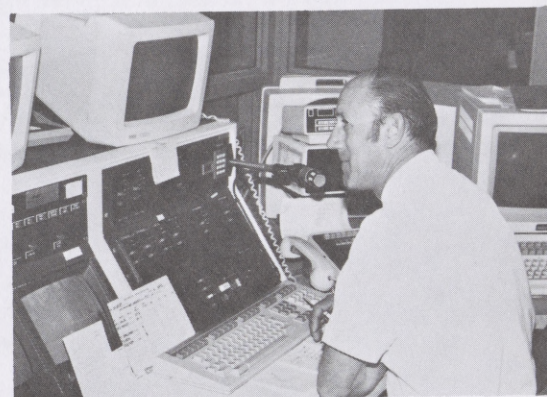


Photo by Jerry Bucklin

Dispatcher Chuck Robertson

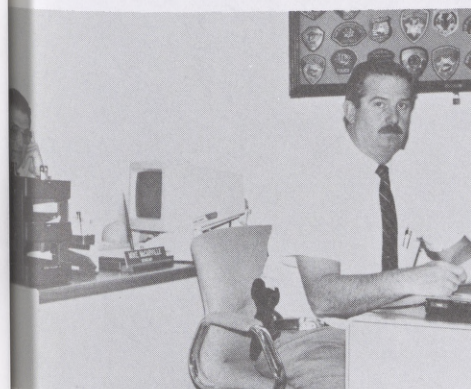


Photo by Jerry Bucklin

Morongo Detectives
(l) Sgt. Mike McCarville
(r) Sr. Dep. Charley Teel



Photo by Jerry Bucklin

Station Clerks
(l) Jeanie Huttner, (c) Linda
Payne; (r) Jessica Bertheola

THE DEPUTY

By Lt. Archer Johnson
Victorville

Now here's a rugged fellow
And a type that's hard to beat,
You may find him on the desert
Or on the city street.

He may be dressed in work clothes
While working on a case,
You may find him in a swell cafe
Midst candle light and lace.

No matter where you see him
Rest assured, the guy is working.
He's here and there and everywhere
That trouble might be lurking.

He always has a helping hand
For anyone that's right.
But if you're wrong, don't cross him,
You'll find he's dynamite.

This man . . . this deputy sheriff,
And may his kind increase,
Is a champion of the people
And a keeper of the peace.

Who is this man in uniform
And just what does he do?
He . . . is a regular deputy sheriff
And he does what he does, for you.

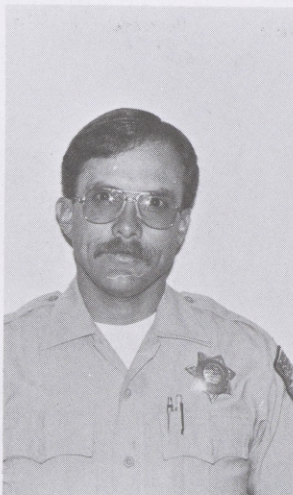
He is a modern-day warrior
In the constant war on crime.



It's a never-ending battle
That he's fighting all the time.
Who? What? When? Where? Why?
And also how?
Who did the deed? To whom and when?
And where's the suspect now?
Did he leave his finger prints?
Did anyone see?
And, if there is a witness,
Will that witness talk to me?
He gets the information
By working night and day,
And helps the prosecutor
To prove that . . . "Crime Doesn't Pay."
He has to be a superman,
Gentle, tough and wise,
An egg-head for the paper work
With a body over-sized.
He's kind to kids and ladies,
But tough-as-hell on crooks,
And full of information
That you'll never find in books.
You, and every citizen
Can make his life worth living.
Just give the guy a little praise
Make every day a "Thanks" giving.

Highway Patrol

In the previous volume of this series, the Highway Patrol was covered in detail. The three officers shown below were not included in the article. They are included here to complete our coverage.



State Traffic Officer
Randy Byerly



State Traffic Officer
Abbey St. Charles



State Highway Patrol Sgt.
Fred Beeman



Dr. J.B. Luckie

TWENTYNINE PALMS



◀ 1931 — An attempt to hand-dig a waterwell on the Benj. H. Steeg homestead, Twentynine Palms, CA



1940 - Desert Convention, 29 Palms, May 4-5. Early Pioneer Days committee sponsored this rugged-looking outfit to tour the Southland publicizing the coming event.

AMONG OUR PIONEERS

MARCH 19, 1937

Might as well fetch me a whole pound of tobacco, Ma; guess I'm gonna live some more now!

That's Phil Sullivan, 69-year-old pioneer and miner in these parts, who's never been sick a day in his life up until his recent illness of about a month ago . . . And then he got pneumonia. Phil says there just ain't no better climate in the world than in Twenty-Nine Palms or a man couldn't live in the same country goin' nigh onto 40 years without being sick once in awhile. That's how long Phil Sullivan has been a native of Twenty-Nine Palms; coming here in 1898.

Phil said he didn't know how sick a man was supposed to be before he went to bed and kept on working round until it nearly got him. He admitted he got so low he was having Mrs. ('Ma') Sullivan purchase his "cookin' tobacco" in small tins. He's ok now and by being persuaded by Mrs. Sullivan to take it easy he'll soon be ready to do some more prospectin'.

Away back in 1891 Phil Sullivan was a young man with a wife and young daughter, and after working in his home town of Weatherford, Texas, then a prospecting trip in New Mexico, and back to Texas again, he headed for California. In Redlands, he became associated with the Haight Fruit company and besides being a foreman in the concern was interested financially.

About two years later he sent for Mrs. Sullivan and their daughter, Ollie (now deceased). Other daughters since, include Allie, now living in Oakland; Wilma Orr, here, and Irene Holmes in Ontario.

After a few years in the fruit business where the family first located, Mr. Sullivan was with a power company in the mountains for awhile, and then the urge to prospect and the lust for gold saw Phil buying a pack train of six burros and heading this way. He said he intended to save a burro to ride but when he got all done packing the whole half dozen were loaded down and he was forced to walk.

Beaumont was the first overnight stop, and he said it was only a place to stop at that; nothing there. The next day he went on through Banning, which wasn't much then either, and pitched camp at what is now Whitewater. The third day's end found the traveler and his burros at "Chuck" Warren's cattle ranch (now the W.V. Covington place); Warren's other cattle corrals and well was the next stop, and Phil said he "sure was glad to see the Palms" when he topped the hill toward the end of the fifth day. (The drive by auto to Redlands from here now is about two hours).

The only white man living at the Palms then was Johnny ("Chuckawalla" Wilson, and his reception of Phil wasn't of a very hospitable nature. However, there were about 40 Indians scattered about the oasis, living in tepees and adobe houses. Sullivan said another prospector, Bill McHaney was here, but was up in the hills and he didn't see him when he first came to the oasis.

Sullivan said he went on past Wilson's dug-out and pitched camp near a water hole under the Palms. Wilson was then living in a hole he had dug in the bank about half way between the present hotel site and the old adobe house at the east end of the oasis. Wilson did have a shanty but it burned down and he never tried to fix it up.

The Indians at that time were captained by Jim Boniface, who with his squaw lived in the best house in the Indian pasture as it was then known. They had a nice garden and raised most all kinds of vegetables, fruit trees and grape vines. Most of the rest of the tribe lived in tepees made of arrow weed and plastered over with adobe mud.

The Dale mining country was going strong then and Sullivan said after resting here about five days he trekked on out there. The population of Dale at that time was about 1000. They had a nice store and restaurant, and the saloon was run by Sam Joiner, who as yet is living and prospecting in the same district.

Phil's destination was not yet ended, for when he was working on the power line in the mountains a friend had been telling him of some good placer prospecting over in the Little Iron Mountains, which was about 14 miles beyond Dale, so again loading down with water and supplies, the prospector and his burro train hit the trail.

Three weeks of constant sampling and walking, packing a dry washer he had made in Redlands, and every night, nothing. Finally he was about to give up that section, when he thought he'd sample some of the dirt he had shoveled away to pitch his camp, and in it was a nugget of about \$1.50 value. He kept on and found a wash and falls, and for about six months he averaged possibly \$50 a day dry washing. Dale was 14 miles away and it was there he had to travel for water and food.

Later the Ferguson brothers, who owned the White Star mine, about six miles from him, started to dig a well and Phil graciously lent a hand to help them, which made his water problem easier. The old-timer has part of the old dry washer yet that he found his first gold with.

We asked the old-timer if he staked and recorded his claims when he found the placer, and he said yes, he staked the claims all right, but seein' as how they made their own laws in them days, he just wrote the names of a couple of friends as

witnesses on the location papers and put 'em in a can. Frank Sabathe, he said, was the name of one of his friends he wrote as a witness, and he doesn't remember whether he ever told Frank about it or not. Sabathe, incidentally, is in the country as yet. Sullivan said he recently had a fellow tell him he found an old monument with the name Phil Sullivan as a witness over 30 years ago, and Phil said "he never knowed nothin' about it, cause he'd never even been there."

Since leaving his first claims, Sullivan became interested in various mines over this area, later taking a mill site where his present homestead land and home is now. He was associated with Bill McHaney and Al Tingman. Tingman was a telegraph operator at Indio, and spent all the time he could here at mining and prospecting. They built an arastra on Phil's mill site, and it wasn't until about 1910 they divided interests, and of the claims, Phil came in possession of the Contact mine, which he still owns. He said it was mostly a prospect at that time, but he has since developed and took out large quantities of gold.

The Bill McHaney Sullivan refers to recently passed on, his life history being printed in the Desert Trail a few weeks ago.

Mr. Sullivan would go home now and then to visit his wife and family. The freighters to and from the mines made trips regularly, and it was that mode of transportation used in those days.

"The old pioneer and his wife will tell you of a blow they received shortly after Phil made his first big stake at placer mining. Their home in Redlands burned, and when he returned after rebuilding, found his camp with all his pack saddles and supplies burned to the ground.

Mrs. Sullivan and the four girls came to Twenty-Nine Palms about 1902. They first lived in a tent. Soon after their son-in-law, William Smith, who had recently married their oldest daughter, started building the adobe house, part of which they still use. Mrs. Sullivan helped him until the walls became so high she couldn't lift the blocks any more. The adobe blocks weighed 75 pounds each, and were made of mud from their own place. Mr. Sullivan was at that time a blacksmith for the Little Italy mine, a short way above the Palms, and on Sundays would come down to work on the house. The Little Italy at that time, he said, was a thriving little settlement, and lots of gold was being shipped from the mines.

The interesting old character will tell of the trouble he had in securing the homestead upon which they now live. He settled on the property and when "Pussyfoot" Johnson, the Indian agent came through to establish lines for the Indian reservation, he found he was on the wrong side of the line, and then filed his homestead on top of his

mill site. He'll tell about going to Los Angeles over 35 years ago to file, and couldn't find anyone who knew where the land office was because there wasn't any homesteading being done in those days to speak of. He finally found a department of interior office in a small brick building. Mr. Sullivan finally received his patent to his 160 acres, signed by Woodrow Wilson during his first administration as President of the United long before the World War.

The original homestead of the Sullivans has been cut up of late years, part of which is now the 29 Palms Townsite being made a city of homes and businesses by the Southwest Subdividers, a large development organization. Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan however, own a large tract of their original homestead, which is very choice and valuable land in the heart of the Twenty-Nine Palms valley.

Mr. Sullivan said the homestead requirements in those days were much different than of late years. One peculiar requirement, he said, was to have a gun in the house at all times, but he said he had an awful time trying to keep guns, for every time he'd come in from a prospecting trip some Indian would have stolen the firearm. He finally got an old shot-gun that wasn't any good, and nobody bothered to take that one away.

Interesting indeed are the stories of the olden days the elderly couple relate. When they first came to live here Mrs. Sullivan said they had an awful time trying to raise chickens on account of the bobcats and wild animals. A coyote one night came in the chicken house and stole a setting hen from the nest only a couple days before she was to hatch her brood. Rabbits were there by the hundreds, and supplied meat in abundance. Mountain sheep, they said were more scarce than even now, as the Indians killed them to eat.

They tell of Willie Boy, who later became a desperado, living here with his squaw and young son.

They tell of one morning Willie Boy and his squaw and son starting for the fruit-picking country around Banning, and Willie Boy came to Banning alone it was later reported. No one since then ever heard of the wife or boy, and it was soon after that the Indian killed Mike Boniface and escaped with his daughter, Isoleta. The Indians from here would go to the fruitpicking country every season to earn money. The Sullivans say they can't figure why Willie Boy liked Isoleta better than his wife because Mrs. Willie Boy was fairly slender and attractive as an Indian maiden.

They'll tell you of the excitement following the murder of Mike Boniface above Banning, when all the officers came here looking for Willie Boy. Mr.

Turn to Page 78

Dr. J.B. Luckie

THE LEGION OF THE UNDAUNTED BILL UNDERHILL

Out of the city's fog and poison-filled air to the clear, clean atmosphere of the desert they came. Behind them they left paved streets and wide boulevards to traverse sandy trails often no wider than the old model "T" Fords which many of them drove.

Some, like the writer, came "just to satisfy the urge to pioneer something." All were Twentieth century pioneers, these men and women, most of whom were searching not for gold, but for peace and calm and, above all, health. They sought health, these people who came to Twentynine Palms, because Dr. J.B. Luckie, Pasadena physician, recommended this section of the Mohave desert to them.

To sit today in any of the modern business buildings and homes in Twentynine Palms and visualize the embryonic beginning of this district back in 1922 and '23 taxes the imagination of the city-bred who all his life has been accustomed to the comforts of modern life.

To do justice to the faith and stick-to-itiveness of the home-building pioneers of the Twentynine Palms Valley, one should have considerable time to do research work, to deeply delve into records, to encourage old-timers to search their memories for facts and figures. But time does not permit such a painstaking search into the past 18 years. Suffice it, therefore to say that the following history of these men and women is but a hurried report of the history of the Desert Outpost 334 of the American Legion.

Probably no man will contradict the statement that one man, essentially a humanitarian and philanthropist, Dr. Luckie, is responsible for the planting of the initial productive seeds to make of this area a first-rate all-year desert and health resort.

After World War I, Dr. Luckie became extremely interested in the physical condition of ex-servicemen. One man in particular held his attention — Joe Davis.

Joe, a member of Post 13 of the American Legion in Pasadena, suffered from tuberculosis, though his buddies in the post knew not of his condition. Dr. Luckie did and made every effort to relieve Joe's condition.

In searching for relief for Joe, Dr. Luckie took him on many trips into the Colorado and Mohave



Dr. J.B. Luckie

Our thanks to Cherly Erickson for her great effort in locating a picture of Dr. Luckie. To our knowledge, it is the only one in existence.

Deserts. There they sought a climate, an especial climate, that would be dry. In their travels they came upon Twentynine Palms. Here the physician concluded he had ended his search, for this area had everything such a man as Joe needed in the way of a climate.

Mr. Luckie induced Joe Davis to come to Twentynine Palms. Post 13 was contacted and a caravan was made up. They came here with Joe, with lumber, with groceries and built a cabin for him. Shortly after a rain came. The roof, unpapered, did not shed the water. Joe decided to start his old Franklin and motor to Banning. Enroute, he ran into a worse storm than the one he was fleeing, rain-soaked, cold, his system rebelled. In a few months he was dead.

Thus passed the first of the legion of the undaunted, the first of the American Legionnaires who came to Twentynine Palms.

But Dr. Luckie had made a good discovery. Here was good water, elevation, clean air, an all-round, generally good climate.

Inspired by Dr. Luckie's consideration for afflicted veterans, inspired by the memory of Joe Davis, Post 13 began to plan for an institution in the Twentynine Palms Valley which was to be known as the Joe Davis Memorial Rest Home.

But, as men are men and their plans are all too often disturbed by man's ego and varied personalities, the dream of a rest home in Twentynine Palms failed to materialize.

In the meantime, other veterans in Pasadena and Altadena began to come to Twentynine Palms. In this great valley, which had been open for homesteading for many years, they filed their claims. As ex-servicemen they were credited with the length of service in any military branch of the U.S. Most ex-servicemen who filed in the valley were required to spend seven months within a 12-month period before proving up.

In 1929 there were enough ex-servicemen in the valley to form an American Legion post. Rules of the national organization demand 15 veterans to form a post. The Twentynine Palms post started with 16, one over the required number, and they induced four or five from Yucca Valley to join. It was christened Desert Outpost 334.

As the months rolled by the membership increased. In January, 1929, Desert Outpost 334 held its first meeting.

At that time there was no building large enough to hold 30 persons. The post anticipated 100 and 150 came.

It was William H. ("Bill") Campbell who solved the problem. His great living room was just then being started. The walls were only up to a height of a few feet, but Bill increased these with lumber, laid a roof across it, decorated it with tree branches and shrubs until, when the boys gathered the room looked like a throne room in some ancient castle.

At that first meeting Dr. Luckie presented the Outpost with 40 acres. In a few years, 100 acres were purchased and added to the original 40.

During a period from 1929 to approximately 1932, a great zeal was shown among Legionnaires to exploit the valley as a health center. Dr. Luckie received bequests totaling \$30,000. This money was used to build the swimming pool, bath house, tennis court and four cabins. The Legionnaires were joined by citizens of the community in donating the work of construction.

Through these formative years, the Outpost was the only organization in the valley that publicized the area. It stressed the healthfulness of the climate. It received cooperation of other posts in Southern California and people listened and responded.

Directly or indirectly, the Outpost was largely responsible for most of the early advances made in Twentynine Palms. It worked on getting 50 miles of roads. It helped build the grammar

school. It helped drill the well and helped raise the windmill. It was the first body to realize that visitors to Twentynine Palms must have places to stay when they came for an overnight visit.

It was the Desert Outpost that inspired the re-surveying of the township. And through all of this, the members of the Outpost constantly extended help and aid to disabled veterans. This was a major task, especially the matter of transportation from the desert to the Sawtelle Hospital in West Los Angeles.

In 1932, the Desert Outpost drew plans which it was certain would blend very definitely with the government's slum clearance ideas. Back of the local post was the State Legion, the supervisors of Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

The local Legionnaires endeavored to borrow \$100,000 from the RFC, but only negative responses came from the powers that were.

Instead the Outpost borrowed \$2,500 from the Bank of Beaumont. With this money, six cabins were built to satisfy the needs of tourists desiring to remain in the desert overnight. When hotels and courts reached a point where they could meet this need, the Legion disposed of the cabins.

Back in 1931 and '32 the Legion established the first concrete block manufacturing business in the valley. Four men worked on this project, Claude Caddell, Guy Mattox, Tom Martin and Bill Underhill.

Many of the houses built with the blocks made by the Legionnaires still stand and even today the palettes used then are still being used. They will be used by the local Disabled American Veterans when they begin building on the five acres of land presented to them April 16, 1940 at the Smoke Tree Broiler by the Desert Outpost.

Until last March, the Legion operated at its own expense and without remuneration to its member-workers, the swimming pool and other recreational activities. In March, the Legion presented the whole works, plus some cash and 25 acres to the Twentynine Palms Park and Recreation District.

Inasmuch as the American Legion is a national organization authorized by Congress, it was necessary that a corporation be formed to handle the property rights of the Legion. This is known as the 29 Palms Legion corporation. Its officers at present are: Wallace Trigg, president; Benj Steeg, secretary and treasurer; Guy Marshall, Henry (Col.) Watson, Frank Bagley, Verne Holmes, and Bill Campbell.

Current officers of Desert Outpost 334 are: Harry Grimm, commander; Benjamin Steeg, first vice commander; Frank Kavanagh, second vice commander; Henry Schoenberger, adjutant and Art Krushat, chaplain. ●

Copy courtesy of The Desert Trail

Twentynine Palms First Bank



The Joshua Monument National Bank opened in 1948. To the left of the photo is a copy of the bank logo.

Joshua Monument Bank

History was made Wednesday when ground was broken for Twentynine Palms' first bank at the corner of the highway and Tamarisk Avenue across the roads from the drug store and newspaper.

Contract for the structure, being erected for Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kenney, was recently awarded to W.H. Watkins Co., Mrs. Lucille Wasserburger, chairman of the bank's directors, announced today. The Joshua Monument National Bank is leasing the building on a long-time lease.

Sullivan Bros. started grading operations Wednesday and work on getting forms and pouring concrete for foundations will begin next week. Bill Watkins reports.

It will be of modern type frame stucco with decorative front with flagstone and plate-glass windows and a small canopy above. The structure will have a 32-foot frontage, 69-foot length, a 15 by 19-foot steel and cement vault and store room, asphalt tile floor and 18 special electric fixtures. Plans and specifications were drawn and prepared by Bill Phelps.

Completion will be between 60 and 90 days and all necessary equipment will be ready to be moved in on the day it is completed, according to bank officials.

Growth of Progressive Desert Communities Is Reflected In Advancement of Joshua Monument National Bank

The remarkable growth of this Morongo Basin metropolis the past few years is most truly reflected in the growth of the Joshua Monument National Bank since it was chartered years ago.

Starting off with a capital stock of 50,000 and \$10,000 in its surplus account the first statement showed \$10,000 undivided profits issued by the new bank at the close of business Dec. 31, 1948 and also showed that it had total resources of nearly \$600,000. This was less than three months after the bank opened for business.

And each succeeding statement issued by this community-serving institution has shown the same consistent growth in its resources. Here are the figures:

Total Resources

June 30, 1949.....	\$ 750,484.05
November 1, 1949	\$ 800,784.94
June 30, 1950.....	\$ 911,320.89
April 9, 1951	\$1,270,128.40
December 31, 1951	\$1,227,222.60
September 5, 1952	\$1,476,744.48
December 31, 1952	\$1,647,197.01

This bank takes great pride in the complete facilities to offer its clients in every department. While its main interest is in commercial accounts, it pays 2 per cent interest on savings accounts up to \$10,000, and, of course, they are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as well as the Federal Reserve Bank.

Safety deposit boxes are available to their customers and the handling of escrows comprises an important branch of their business.

By its liberal attitude in its loan policy this bank has more than met the responsibilities of a community-building financial institution, which to a large measure accounts for the high esteem in which it is held by the people of this fast developing desert area.

The officers and directors whose wise administration is responsible for the progress this bank has made in four short years are as follows:

Officers — Joseph P. Wasserburger, president; W. O. Hayhurst, vice president; William B. Hatch, Jr., vice president; R. D. Coon, vice president and cashier.

Directors: Lucille M. Wasserburger, chairman; Edward J. Kenney, Joseph P. Wasserburger, Agnes K. Wasserburger, William B. Hatch, W. O. Hayhurst and Wilson O. Lindsay.

To Lucille M. Wasserburger, chairman of the bank, belongs the unique distinction of being the only woman chairman of a National Bank west of the Mississippi River.

The Desert Trail takes pride in giving this brief summary of the progress of this progressive bank. ●

Wasserburger Given Advancement With Federal Housing July 4, 1948

Having been a member of the staff of the Federal Housing in Southern California since 1935, Joseph Wasserburger has just been appointed by the Federal Housing commission as financial representative of zone IV comprising the states of California, Oregon, Washington, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona; also the territories of Hawaii and Alaska.

Wasserburger, who is arranging for the Joshua Monument National bank of Twentynine Palms, is now in Washington, D.C., in his new capacity. The position deals directly with all financial institutions in these states who are taking part in the title 1 program of modernization and small new home construction. ●

Footnotes To History

May 9, 1935

WEATHER BUREAU ESTABLISHED

Frank DeMent has just received equipment from the U.S. Agricultural Division of plant industry station at Indio and plans to begin at once to keep permanent records of the weather here in Twentynine Palms. He will record daily maximum and minimum temperatures, and the amount of rainfall. The data will be sent monthly to Mr. Dewey Moore at the Indio station where it will be compiled and sent to headquarters in Washington, D.C. In this way the weather conditions in Twentynine Palms will become a part of the national weather data.

This has been one need that has never been cared for here. Many people interested in desert climates that have been searching for a dry year-round climate have been denied accurate information about this area.

This information will be at the disposal of anyone interested now that Mr. DeMent has started to keep an accurate weather station, and has the proper equipment for doing the work. ●

Fri. Oct 30, 1942

Army Tagging All Speedsters

YOU'D better keep that speedometer under 35 because the army is patrolling all highways in and around Twentynine Palms. Constable Jack Cones has asked Capt. George Finley, provost marshal, and his men to be on the lookout for speedsters and the army is cooperating to hold down not only army but civilian traffic.

Constable Cones has authorized the army to stop speeders and give them warning tickets. The first is a warning ticket, explained Captain Finley. The second will be turned in to Constable Cones. If a third is presented, the motorist's name will be turned in to the rationing board and he will automatically forfeit his ration book for gas and rights for tires.

Recently, Commanding Officer Capt. Hess of Condor Field received orders from the 9th service command to accept responsibility of patrolling highways about Twentynine Palms to help cut down army personnel speeding. ●

Bill Hanson

THE HANSON FAMILY HOMESTEAD

William (Bill) R. Hanson, a local resident of Yucca Valley for 29 years lived in the 29 Palms area as a small boy when his parents homesteaded 160 acres under the original homestead act when you could file on a quarter section of land. Later his father Walter, acquired another quarter section next to his own which his brother Arthur had filed on and let go, making a total of 320 acres.

Bill's father, Walter, arrived with several other homesteaders in July of 1927, pitching a tent and staying at the oasis. Imagine how hot it was in the middle of July in a tent for those folks from Minnesota. The only government marker at that time was at the oasis and in order to find their property, out several miles on the Amboy Road, they had to chain from the oasis approximately two miles north and three miles east. Later the government put in additional monuments and we found our cabin had been built about 200 feet on another homestead, and had to be moved onto our property. At that time the only water was at the oasis which we dipped out with a bucket. A few months later a well was put in at the plaza, I believe by Frank Bagley, and we could fill our bottles there.

The old stove shown below was placed on top of a kerosene cook stove & used to bake bread & pies sold at the original Bagley Store in 1927.

Bill Hansen



Bill Hansen

The small wood stove shown above was used by the Hanson family for heat. Some 62 years ago.

The original trips driving out from Los Angeles would sometimes take up to 20 hours depending on how many flat tires we had, and how many times we boiled over or got stuck in the sand. The mailing address at that time was Whitewater, Ca. and also the main road off Interstate 10 was just past the Whitewater bridge where there was a one-way road up the side of the mountain going off on an angle to the middle of Devil's Garden now Highway 62. In those days there were thousands of Barrel Cactus which have been removed during the years. The road all the way from Interstate 10 to 29 Palms was literally two ruts in the sand and flash floods, especially in the canyons, could wash the road out in several places. We could always depend on getting water at a place about a mile west of the Yucca grade on the north side of the road. I don't recall the man's name but he had a wooden trough where he had tapped a spring a considerable distance away in the nearby hills, and the water was clear and fresh, and we could have all we wanted.

Under the original Homestead Act we were required to clear 20 acres per quarter section, which applies primarily to the timber areas of the country, and was changed in the early 30's because in desert areas it should not have applied. You will notice in some areas in Yucca Valley

that the land has been stripped of Joshua and Yucca Trees in large squares. In 29 Palms when we were clearing our land there were many Greasewood bushes and a lot of Sagebrush. These had to be chopped down, piled up in huge piles and when ignited and burned the king sized fires could be seen for miles. If you were a WWI veteran you could complete homestead requirements in none months.

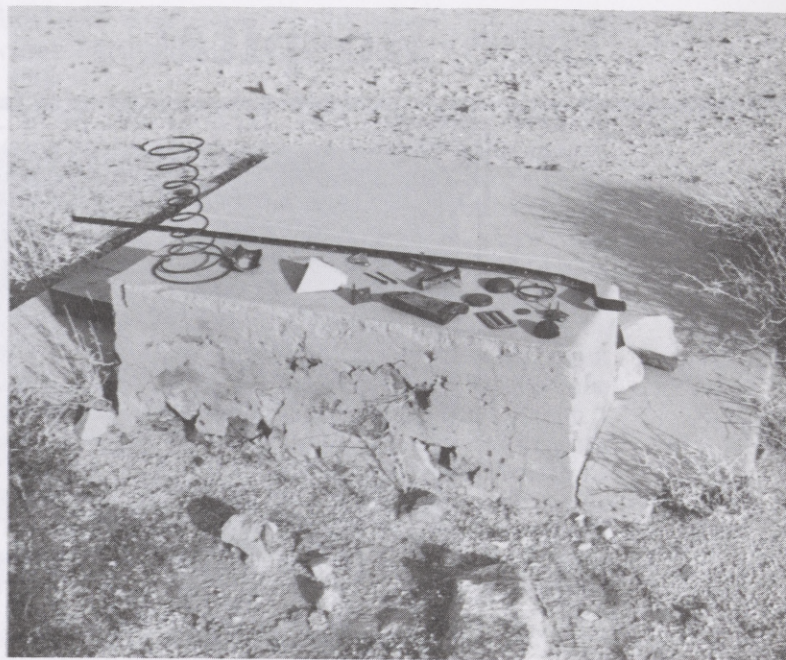
Requirements were: clearing 20 acres, building a small cabin, and I believe there was a small fee involved. A non-veteran took about three years to complete a homestead. My mother Ruth, my sister Phyllis and I, lived in the cabin while my father Walter continued to work in Los Angeles. He would come out to the homestead as often as he could. We had a small kerosene cook stove and a sheet metal



Bill Hansen

Bill Hansen standing by all that is left of original homestead (1927) step, metal scrapper & small amount of cement.

oven that could be set on top and removed when not being used. One day the oven was outside and when we picked it up there was a huge diamond back rattlesnake underneath. We ran over to our closest neighbor, Bill Pennell, who lived about a half mile away, and was one of the early settlers in the 29 Palms area. He came to our rescue with his trusty gun and shot the snake. Occasionally we would get some rain and my sister and I would run around in the rain in our birthday suits — what fun!! For a little extra income, my mother who was an excellent cook and baker, would bake fresh bread and pies and sell them at Bagley's market at the Plaza. People would wait in line for them and she could sell all she could bake. I turned 5 years old before we finished up on the homestead and started school (picture in volume 3 in Hi-Desert Dreaming on pages 82 and 89) when there were six kids in one room. There were a lot of wild donkeys which the kids rode to school as seen in the picture on page 89.



Bill Hansen

Step with a few things found; hinges, nails, buckle, spring, metal portion of tire patch kit. (Vulcalizing)

I especially recall going up into the Monument to get our Sunday dinner which consisted of 5 or 6 nice cotton-tails. We used a little single shot Winchester 22 rifle that was very accurate. The man who did most of the shooting right from the car, was a policeman from Pasadena named Fleetwood, who was an absolute deadeye. After shooting a rabbit, my sister and I would run to pick it up. This of course was before the area became a National Monument in 1932, and it was legal to hunt. After getting our rabbits skinned out and cleaned we would drive on up to the Bill Keyes Ranch and visit with Bill and his family. One of the high lights in visiting the Key Ranch was picking some fresh fruit if it was ripe. He had quite a variety of fruit such as pears, apples, and I believe peaches.

Through the years my family would occasionally come back to see the old homestead, and one time when we were there after a very strong wind, the cabin had been blown off the concrete supports and we found it scattered over about 20 acres. The only thing we found was a great deal of lumber, part of the old cook stove, the cement steps leading into the cabin with the metal scrapper to clean our shoes and other miscellaneous items.

The day we left the homestead to move back to Los Angeles we stopped in Banning for gas. My mother drove the old Hupmobile Touring Sedan which had a soft top and a hole in the roof. It was raining and we were all huddled together in the front seat trying to keep dry.

My wife and I eat at the San Gorgonio Inn quite frequently, and I enjoy telling the waitress that I have been eating at the Inn since 1927, and then I briefly tell her of those homestead years in 29 Palms.

Ince Hospital



The Thomas H. Ince Memorial Hospital opened in June 1948. It was the only hospital in the Morongo Basin.

Thos. H. Ince Memorial Hospital
Opening June 19-20
June 18, 1948

Another important milestone in the progress and development of Twentynine Palms will be reached tomorrow with the formal opening of the Thos. H. Ince Memorial Hospital.

This event culminates a dream of many years of Dr. William T. Ince to erect a testimonial to his father, the late Tom Ince, former famous moving picture producer, and required many years of planning before the \$100,000 hospital became a reality.

The beautiful and ultra-modern structure on top of the hill on Adobe Road, was built by Dr. and Mrs. Ince and Mrs. Thos. H. Ince, widow of the dedicatee. Its rooms and two corridors cover an area of 4,680 square feet with a 60-foot wide and 78-foot length. A raised roof-effect in the center of the building is over the reception and operating rooms giving them a height of over 13 feet, while the balance of the building is over nine feet high. The insulated desert roof has a three-foot overhang and an aluminum cornice all around. Fronted with a green concrete sidewalk, the exterior paint colors are light palo verde green.

The ambulance car port and the service passage on the north side of the building was so designed that the patient is at no time exposed to the out-

doors. Wide double crash doors open flat against the wall permitting the conveyance to back up to them, so that the person may be transferred from it to the hospital stretcher. A wall cabinet near the door contains a variety of supplies that may be needed in emergency cases, and oxygen tanks are available if necessary. The patient is prepared and assigned to the proper department.

Adjoining is a working supply room with hospital supplies and dressings and is also used as a work room for nurses.

Then there are the chemical laboratory, kitchen with electric and diet ranges, dish washer and garbage disposal unit; and two 2-bed wards and private room, all on the north side. These wards are all different, number one all gray, number two chrome-green and number three red and peach. Variant designs of wall paper cover the walls at the back of the head of the beds in the rooms and draperies to match each pattern. The rooms are thermostatic. Tiled-in tub, shower, wash basin and toilet are available for use of the patients.

The large surgery room, with its green walls and ceiling, terraza floor and 13-foot, 4-inch height contains an operating table, various appliances and autoclave pressure washer, for boiling instruments, dressings and clothes. Across the south hall is the X-ray room with a tilt table, counter-balanced, control panel, dark room, developing facilities, acid-proof sink and refrigeration process which keeps the temperature of the room at 68 degrees.

At the rear is the physiotherapy nursery and sun room looking out in the yard at the rear of which are three walls of different height providing space for small trees, flowers and vines. Under it is a basement room for main storage of supplies and water heater.

Two examination rooms on the south side, with a turquoise motif are outfitted with wash basins with foot-pedal controls, examining lights overhead and along two sides in recesses concealed are cold cathode tubes providing a steady, non-flickering light.

Dr. Ince's consulting room and office, at the southeast corner, is equipped with mahogany book shelves, inter-communication in which he can summon a nurse from any room as well as a signal call light and other modern medical equipment.

If building activity during the first six months of this year may be used as a barometer, local

business conditions should record an upward climb during the last half of 1948.

With the Thos. H. Ince Memorial Hospital opening tomorrow, the post office being moved into its new quarters next weekend, work being started Wednesday on new bank contract and next week on the new Catholic church, a new four-store arcade now in the plan process, bids being asked by the county office for the new high school addition to be turned in by June 22, bids to be received next week on the large assembly room addition to the Little Church of the Desert, the new mortuary building to be completed by Sept. 1 and the Rich building in August, a new grocery and meat market structure in Smoke Tree to be ready for occupancy next week in addition to numerous modern residences and duplexes being in various stages of construction, home folks may truthfully state, "My, but our town is surely growing." ●

Memorabilia

Twentynine Palms

Jan. 17, 1936

A Long Distance Phone is to be installed at Bagley's Store. Number, please? 29 Palms calling...And another step in the march of progress is the installation of another long-distance phone to be installed here at Bagley's Store by the Southern California Telephone Company to connect to the cross country line through here from Los Angeles to New York. Mr. M.M. Perret, district manager for that company, with headquarters at Riverside spent the day here for the installation of the facility, selecting a route for erection of poles and line, etc. The line will run from the Bagley Store along Adobe Road and connect with the other local line at the corner of 29 Palms Hwy.

Mr. Perret stated his company now has an application pending with the Railroad Commission for readjustment of toll rates from here to the central and metropolitan areas, and they anticipate a change in the near future.

The official also made known that a statewide application is before the commission to authorize the night rates to begin at 7 o'clock instead of the later hour as is now practiced, and also requesting the night rate over the Sunday holiday.

The Bagley phone is to be installed and ready to use by Feb. 15, 1936 according to the contract and this then will give the community access to three such outlets. ●

Dec. 20, 1935

Special 30 day offer, Wells drilled and cased as low as \$1.35 per foot. C.F. Taylor.

Tower Barber Shop. Ladies, Children's and Men's Up to Date hair cuts by Glen Waldie. All Hair Cuts 50 cents...Shaves 25 cents.

Bob's Cheap Transportation — 1929 Buick Sport Coupe \$195.00. 1930 Hudson \$195.00. 1930 Essex Coach \$165.00. Late 1929 Ford Pick Up \$150.00. 1927 Studebaker Sedan \$75.00. 1926 Chrysler Roadster \$45.00. Model T Ford Touring Car \$10.00.

Colvia Benito Sr. erects service station and 30 x 30 building. Adobe Road and 29 Palms Hwy. The upper story of the building will be used as living quarters. ●

April 10, 1936

Raymond Smith — 1st 29 Palms Baby — a celebration for the boy who was born on Easter Sunday. ●

Jan. 10, 1936

The sting of taxation — well, here it is, tax time again! How time flies! We expected it, however, but no one ever dreams of taxes being lower. Impossible. Right now the new vehicle license tax in its double form, is in order. It all reminds one of the advice of the county officials, who need the money badly. "Pay your taxes with a smile, if I could; but confound it all, the collector insists on the cash!" ●

Bill Smith

LETHEAN BILL SMITH, PIONEER

Friday, May 10, 1940

By JEAN JACQUES

(Editor's Note — This is one of a series of human interest articles by Mr. Jacques especially written for the Desert Trail).

To admit that you do not know Bill Smith is an out-and-out admission that you are a newcomer to Twentynine Palms, for Bill has been in the valley since 1923. But Bill's figurative feathers remain unruffled should you plead ignorant of his existence, for his is an easy-going, congenial, sincere, smiling pioneer who obviously believes that life is a game to be taken not too seriously.

Should Bill Smith's name be listed in a record of Twentynine Palms' immortals one could place a number of reasons for electing him to such an honored list.

Probably the old-timers would vote for Bill's immortality because of the five days when his one-cow herd of milch cattle left the confines of Bills' none-too-secure corral to hobnob with the steers, cows and bulls in the Barker and Shay herd that roamed the valley back in the late '20's. Then, too, Bill might be held eligible for immortality because of his 1917 Model-T Ford, or his wide-open shower bath where men, women and children enjoyed the thicker-than-needlepoint spray.

Bill's life in Twentynine Palms is a record of tenacious work sprinkled liberally with amusing incidents. Even when these incidents were occurring, Bill could see the humor of them. Undoubtedly it is because Bill can laugh when other men curse, smile when others would fret, remain silent when others would growl, that his face bears no signs of worry or care.

Bill's faculty of taking life as it comes is an enviable one. Bad breaks, which other men would recall as dire calamities are reviewed by Bill with a smile.

But let's start at the beginning.

Bill came to California in 1921 from Burwell, Nebraska, where he had been a farmer. Two years later, in Pasadena, he heard about the government's offer to throw open homesteads in the desert.

In a model-T Ford truck, then six years old, he shimmied over the dirt road that led from the highway to Twentynine Palms. He selected 160 acres near Mesquite Dry Lake. That winter the rains came and when the storm was over, Bill and his Ford were marooned on a piece of land as flat as a Graham hot cake — but he couldn't get his Ford through the sand.

Bill laughs as he recalls how long it took him to get off the yet-to-be his homestead, but he did get out and thumbed his nose at the place.

He moved in on his brother, Harry, near Mesquite Springs. There he remained for two years looking over the valley, and finally decided on taking up 160 acres which in time became the Bill Smith Ranch.

He built a house, one of the first of lumber in this end of the valley. Its over-all measurements were eight feet by nine feet long.

Inspired by the lack of milk for youngsters in the families of the ever-increasing homesteaders, Bill invested in a cow.

One day Bossy, probably a gregarious bovine desiring to enjoy the society of the scattered herds of cattle, meandered away. Bill expected her to return to be milked, but three days passed. Mothers were calling at the ranch for milk for their children, so Bill decided to go after Bossy on foot.

With his faithful companion, Waldo, a cross between an Irish terrier and an undertermined breed of bird dog, Bill sallied forth to conquer the prodigal Bossy.

All day he walked. Up and down and around age-old sand dunes. He crossed and recrossed the bed of the Coyote River, extinct for 10,000 years. Night caught him near Surprise Springs. During the day he had neither food nor drink. His leg muscles were weary. He sat down and called Waldo, tied a note to his collar and sent him back to the ranch.

In the village, his neighbors, none of whom lived closer than a mile, began to worry. A rescue party was talked about and then Waldo trotted into town with the note, which was addressed to Frank Mathys and Ed Erwin, a visitor.

Early the next morning Mathys went out with food and water, but Bill was up early and off after the wayward cow which had joined a small herd of grazing cattle. The trail led into Coyote Valley, where the cattle headed for water.

Evening again overtook Bill. Again his legs were tired, his mouth dry, his stomach playing a tattoo on his spine. He located Fred Shuman who

gave him water and food, six eggs, potatoes, bread and a couple of eggs for dessert.

The next day, Bill caught the cow in a corral in to which it had been inveigled by some cowhands and led it back to his ranch and the milk supply of Twentynine Palms was restored.

Bill laughs at the incident now, but he admits that trailing a one-cow stampede was no vacation.

That one cow brought in \$1100 to Bill. She was giving plenty of milk and Bill was selling it for 40 cents a quart. He kept it cool in a "desert refrigerator," a wooden frame with wetted burlap around it.

Oddly enough, when Bill got another cow, his profits dwindled. When he got three cows, the county inspectors came and made him put in a lot of modern doo-dads. These cut into his profits still deeper. When his milch herd reached 20 cows, he began losing money so fast he got rid of them.

Bill just cannot remember dates. He thinks he had his cows until 1934. He has a hunch his Ford truck was well over 12 years old before it coughed its last cough and figuratively laid down never to boil again.

Between us, we managed to figure out when he married Thelma Mead, who was homesteading here but did not prove up when the marital knot was tied in Pasadena. Between employing the natural laws governing propagation and the present age of Raymond, the Smiths' oldest, we concluded that Bill was married in 1930.

Odd, too, was Bill's uncanny ability to remember what other people wanted when he was hauling (in his old Ford) for Frank Bagley and the 29 Palms Inn. In addition to buying for the pioneer store and hotel, Bill was doing considerable buying for the women in and around Twentynine Palms. He never failed to bring back what was ordered, even when the orders called for such unfamiliar items as unmentionables.

Bill made the trip twice a week into Riverside from 1928 to 1933 (Bill had forgotten the dates, Frank Bagley supplied them). The road in those days was definitely corrugated, with the troughs often as deep as six inches. Bill referred to the trips as his bi-weekly "vibration treatment for one of Mr. Ford's cars."

There is another story in Bill's 400-gallon water tank, and the time he attempted to re-fill Frank Bagley's two 50-gallon barrels, but these will have to wait until next week, as will the amusing story of bathing a la nude a la Twentynine Palms.

The Smiths have four children Raymond, 9, said to be the first male child born in the township. Gayle, 7, and the first girl born here, Nona, 5, and Del De, 4.

And quoting Bill, "they drink Bill Smith's milk, ate Bagley's groceries and thrive" on the unparalleled climate of Twentynine Palms.

Being one of the oldest residents here, and early foreseeing the future development of the valley, he has built permanently, and his goals have been the establishment of maximum usefulness as a dairyman and ice distributor. ●

The Desert Trail

Footnotes To History

Dec. 6, 1940

BILL SMITH FAMILY WELCOMES NEWCOMER

The population at the Bill Smith ranch increased this week when Mrs. Smith presented her husband with a son, a 7-pounder and 6-ouncer. Day of birth of the youngster was Wednesday, December 4.

Infant Smith hasn't been named as yet. Littlest sister DelDee is real proud of her new brother, as are Nona and Gayle. But Raymond, heretofore being the only boy, the oldest of the offspring, and furthermore, the first boy being born in Twentynine Palms, doesn't think his tiny brother "is so important."

Mother and son are "doing fine." They are at the home of Mrs. Donnell and were cared for by Dr. Leonard, assisted by Nurse Mrs. Leonard. ●

Dec. 10, 1943

INCOME PROPERTY

DOUBLE BUNGALOW, Buena Ventura Tract. Living room, kitchen and bath each side. Concrete construction. Completely remodeled inside and out. Furnished. Gross income \$60 per month. For quick sale, \$2450; one-half cash, balance easy. TWO concrete tile 3-rm. bungalows, furnished; double garage. One has glassed-in sleeping porch and electrolux. Lot 100x150. Income, gross \$125 month. Price \$6,500; one-third cash, balance \$50 month.

RESIDENTIAL

3-ROOM stucco bungalow on lot 60x120, near drug store and highway; unfurnished. Price \$2500 cash. BEAUTIFUL stucco bungalow, unfurnished 5-room 2½ blocks from 4 corners. Hdwd floors; garage, shrubs. A bargain at \$4500. Requires \$2000 cash. ●

THE COVERED WAGON & CURT BUSH

COVERED WAGON

1940

Prudence Underhill

Our Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce was indeed alert to the value of advertising and promoting OUTSIDE of this area the virtues of our community and its activities.

This is attested by the accompanying photograph of the then famed mule-drawn covered wagon of "Pac-a-Pan" Curt Bush that pulled out of Twentynine Palms March 25, 1940, in a blaze of glory on a 400 mile trek through Southern California. The whole purpose was to draw attention to the approaching fourth annual Pioneer May Day Festival and the first annual Desert Rat Convention set for May 4-5 — five weeks later. Margaret Kenney was among those of the mounted escorts on the start, along with several "cowgirls" and "cowboys," but she is the only one still here.



Prudence Underhill

Curt Bush

The covered wagon and two mules belonged to Curt Bush. Good friends of his, Mr. and Mrs. E.A. "Robbie" Robinson told me they were given to Curt by his admiring fellow workers at a Brea machine shop when his health demanded he seek a desert climate and he took the Robinsons' suggestion to come to Twentynine Palms.

"Robbie" at that time had the garage and the first new-car dealership here on the south side of Twentynine Palms Highway, now opposite "The Attic" and the health food store. Curt parked his wagon there for a while when he first arrived, some 42 years ago. (The Robinsons still own that property and still reside here.)



Prudence Underhill

The covered wagon is shown here travelling past "Signal Hill" close to Long Beach. In all, the covered wagon & wagon master "Pac-a-Pan" Curt Bush, covered in excess of 400 miles.

The Chamber of Commerce offered Curt a "deal" to drive his wagon for a month all around the Southland to spread the word about Twentynine Palms' big celebration. Roy M. Ropp, then Pioneer Day Festival chairman and also an artist of note, painted with his oils an exceedingly beautiful scene of the Oasis of Mara palms on the wagon's back drop. "Twentynine Palms Pioneer Day Celebration" curved around the top of the landscape and in further large lettering below: "All year desert resort — elevation 2100-5500 — come out and enjoy yourself." The large signs on either side of the wagon read: "I'm headin' for the Desert Rat Convention — 29 Palms, May 4-5."

When Curt and his wife came by the house the other day (they live in Pioneertown) there was plenty of reminiscing and he recalled first that Bill Underhill, then publisher of The Desert Trail, had dubbed him "Pac-a-Pan" Curt because he sold pots and pans and would do this on his monthlong publicizing journey. The Chamber of Commerce gave him \$100 on which to feed him and the mules. (No gas to buy, just hay). So, the additional profit from his sales helped subsidize additional expenses.

"Pac-a-Pan" Curt was warmly received in all the cities he visited and soon our Chamber of Commerce began receiving letters from persons who had seen the covered wagon and they especially inquired about motel accommodations. He went into Long Beach, Laguna Beach, Santa Ana, Pasadena and, of course, all the towns in between.

The wagon and the western-dressed driver reaped a harvest of good publicity and goodwill for Twentynine Palms. Advertising, therefore, was the lowest of major cost items on the Chamber's list with \$34.31 expended outside of the \$100, which was donated. More than 286 column inches of newspaper and magazine space were given the Pioneer days.

So successful were these "red letter days" with record-breaking crowds, both residents and developers saw the imperative necessity of launching an extensive building program to meet housing needs of tourists and visitors who eventually would settle here. It was not long before investments were made here in courts (now termed motels), duplexes, single houses and apartments.

Forty-two years ago the Oasis of Mara was the site of the celebration. There were: the parade, a barbecue chaired by Alma Steeg with Mabel Marlow as cashier, and equestrian program prepared by Fred Healey, gold panning demonstrations by bearded miners, an archery shoot, a concert by local and out-of-town school students, a red mare



The Desert Trail

Desert Rat Convention 29 Palms, May 4-5, Early Pioneer Days committee sponsored this rugged-looking outfit to tour the Southland publicizing the coming event.

won by the late Dick Mayo (brother of Dr. Bill Mayo), an oldtime "49-er" dance, and a jalopy race sponsored by the Rod Knockers' Club on Mesquite dry lake that drew 1000 people. Then there was the "hanging" of "smooth pusses" (no beards) and Major Huber was one of the builders of the scaffolding.

And, of course, Pac-a-Pan came home to a hero's welcome and was profusely thanked for, "a job well done."●

Memorabilia

\$100 CHECK SENT USO August 2, 1942

Check No. 1 for \$100 from the bank account of the local USO unit was sent yesterday to Karl D. Muth, county chairman of the USO war fund campaign. This amount, representing half of the sum collected in the recent drive, was Twentynine Palms' first contribution sent in to headquarters.

The check was signed by Mrs. Leonard Wikoff, head of the financial committee who directed the local campaign, and Mrs. Bill Underhill, general chairman. The local unit now has a bank balance of \$121.67 to be used locally. At the present time, there is no project needed here, but the committee is prepared for any influx of soldiers. ●

TRUE ELEVATION HERE

2000.27

THE elevation of Twentynine Palms at the National Park Service office on 29 Palms highway is officially determined as 2000.27. This figure is inscribed on the bronze-plaquet elevation bench mark permanently placed by United States geodetic surveyors, stationed here with their party chief, Clarence Symns. ●

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY AMBULANCE 29 Palms — Nov. 5, 1943

The Lions Club, according to a statement made today by its president, "wishes to assure residents of Twenty-nine Palms — who so generously supported its ambulance fund drive — that it will not be satisfied with doubtful equipment.

"The ambulance recently delivered," he said, "does not satisfy us Lions and is being returned. We believe that difficulty in obtaining a suitable vehicle can be overcome, and we hope soon to have an ambulance we can take pride in." This was the universal reaction, as expressed at the club board meeting Wednesday night, according to President Hayes. ●

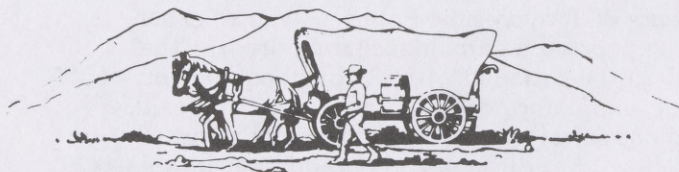
Friday, Feb. 14, 1941

The Chamber of Commerce has changed the name of the annual event, which will begin April 19, to "Desert Sun Festival" instead of Pioneer May Day.

Ed Gilpin, a director of the Chamber, turned in the winning name, and will be awarded the prize of a free pass to all activities held that day. ●



The old stone oven that produced the towns bread. It was on the Aaron Homestead about 2½ miles above the Oasis. As many as 66 loaves per day were produced in this oven.



The famous Twentynine Palms covered wagon, advertising Pioneer Days and Twentynine Palms in general.

The Desert Trail



The Desert Trail

The judge and jury of the Twentynine Palms first court trial. Court was held in the Legion building in Twentynine Palms.



29 Palms Pl



The Desert Trail

Above: The first trial held in 29 Palms. The Judge, Sam Bailey (arrow) is wearing the wide brimmed hat. Ed Malone stands at his right. The defendants, accused of shooting deer out of season, were acquitted without the jury leaving the box.

The famous Lions Club Hat Styling show given in 1946 - the Lions like all other civic organizations have been active right from the beginning.

The Desert Trail

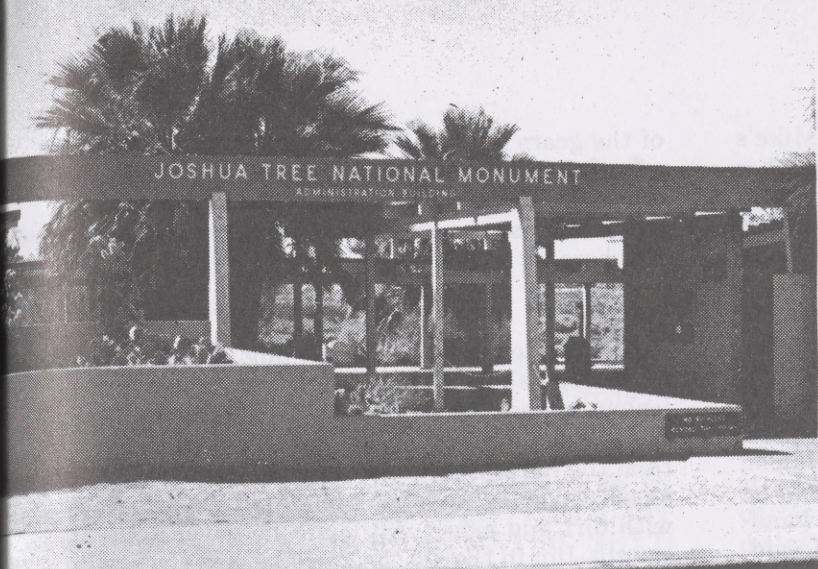


LION'S CLUB HAT STYLING SHOW

"THE DUCKS DUCKED"

LADIES NIGHT OCTOBER 23, 1946

RUMPUS ROOM - SMOKE TREE BROILER



The Desert Trail

is the gateway to the now famous national park. The building houses the Administrative offices as well as the visitors center.

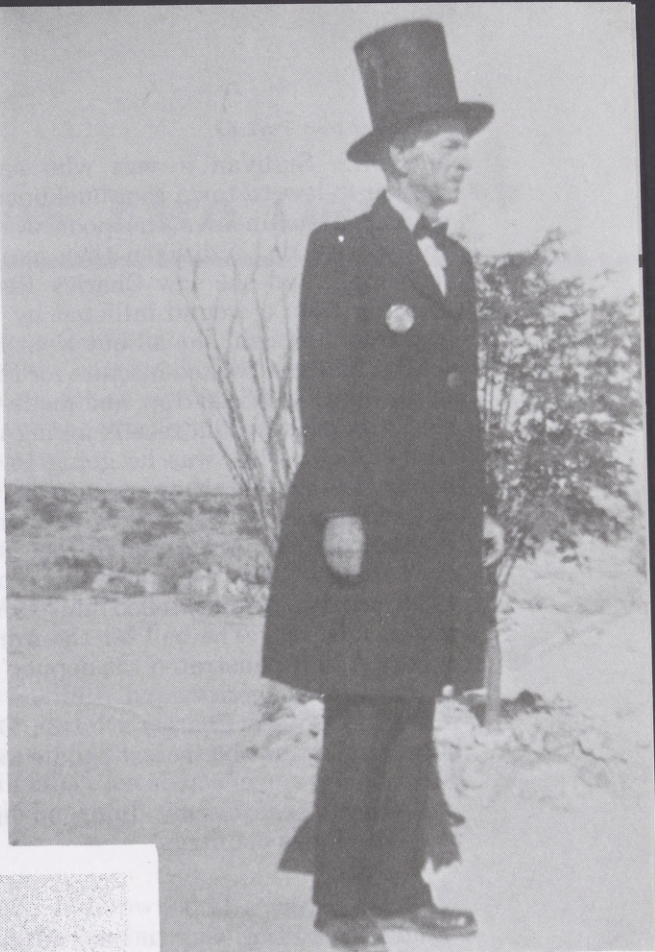
Photo Notes



1937—This is how it looked when the "new store" was opened. The building to the left was built for Jim and Hilda Graham, for a restaurant. Sunday evening people went for dinner—such good dinners. There would be fire on the hearth and friends met informally. Cafe society! Yes, this is now the Artists' Workshop.

BURRO MAN — Les Spell, no Hollywood type among Death Valley 49er Burro Packing - Flapjack Contest entries, won first prize in 1952. He and burro, known in her Death Valley debut as "Lady from Twentynine Palms," both were declared Grand Champions. Les says burro was from local stable.

The Desert Trail



The Desert Trail

Circa 1948. Postmaster Been Steeg dressed in costume for Pioneer Day Float.

Leslie Spell (r) and his brother Oakley, was taken in 1890 while visiting friends in Colorado Springs.



and Mrs. Sullivan it was who hauled Mike's mother-in-law to town in a buckboard to see her murdered son-in-law. The poor woman moaned and carried on, and when they arrived at Warren's well, and she saw Charley Reche's bloody clothing from a wound inflicted by Willie Boy's gun from ambush, she all but went hysterical.

Mrs. Sullivan cooked biscuits for the men of the posse hunting Willie Boy, and made them corned beef sandwiches. Phil recalls joking with Deputy Reche about what was he going to do with the handcuffs he had hanging to his belt? Reche assured him he was going to "dab 'em on" Willie Boy before they were through. Those same handcuffs saved Reche's life before night Phil said, when the bad Indian felled him from his horse with a rifle ball. The ball hit the iron bands and only part of it penetrated the deputy's hip, which at that was a severe wound. Sullivan said he sure was sorry to see Charley's horse, Dolly, killed, because she was the fastest saddle mare in these parts.

Charley Reche is now living on his ranch up near The Pipes country.

Indian tradition was to burn all belonging to one of their tribe when he died, and the Sullivans will tell of the time Jim Boniface, the tribe leader died, and the superstitious Indians held their ceremony and pow-wow and destroyed the entire orchard, vines, house, garden and belongings. Boniface is buried along side the Adobe Road across from the Sullivan homestead. Others died while the Sullivans were here and are also buried there. Mike Boniface's home here was completely destroyed by the tribe after he was murdered by Willie Boy. Mike's home however, they said, was not so elaborate as his brother Jim's home.

When Jim Boniface died the tribe was then captured by Jim Pine. Phil said he asked Mike why he didn't assume his brother's duties; and he said "hell, no . . . me no want um."

Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan were living here when the little Whalen girl died in the old adobe house when she became sick enroute to the mines where her mother was a cook. Mrs. Sullivan had just went in town on the same freight wagon Mrs. Whalen and the girl came out on.

Jim Pine's 12-year-old boy accidentally shot himself here one day, and about a week after died, and is buried along side the road with the other Indians, they say. Mr. Sullivan said he sure always hated the doctor at Dale ever since that accident. The boy shot himself in the face, and the doctor wouldn't come from Dale to attend him. The miners kept a doctor there at all times, who was paid from part of every man's wages.

The water supply at Dale, Phil says, was a public well, maintained by the freighters, and they kept a horse pulling the pump-like affair they called a "whim." Mr. Sullivan now has part

of the gears to the old contraption, which he dug out of the sand years after everything was abandoned at the camp. He used the heavy gear to equip a horse-drawn arastra he built at his mill site here.

Sullivan tells of the time he dug his well at his homestead about 35 years ago. Jim Pine was very jealous of anyone trying to settle the country, and claimed the entire region for his tribe. Every time the homesteader would come home after an absence of a few days, he would find the hole filled with dirt and ashes. Although he never actually caught Jim in the act, he knew he was the scoundrel.

Sullivan tells of the fun the few prospectors and miners had with "Chuckawalla." He was supposed to be an expert at panning (horning) gold, and if anyone doubted his ability he wouldn't allow them on his premises.

Upholding "Chuckawalla" in one respect, Phil said he was always ready to protect the great Palm trees under which he lived. The woodchucks were bad in early days here, and several of the smaller trees, he said, were destroyed by the little animals when they would eat in enough to weaken the stump and they would blow over when a wind came. Every time Wilson hears a woodchuck working on one of the desert sentinels he would grab his gun and never stop until he had killed him.

Sullivan then came in possession of the once-famous Anaconda mine, now at the entrance of the Joshua Tree National Monument, which was found about the time Colonel Washington first surveyed this country in 1855. He encountered troubles over the mine, and it was not until early 1928 that he won the mine back in a lawsuit. Incidentally, Mr. Sullivan was about the first man the writer met in Twenty-Nine Palms. We were stuck in the sand trying to make a road on our own homestead, when he came walking down from doing his first assessment work on the Anaconda since becoming legal owner again. In our recent conversation he recalled me driving over his water canteen which he had laid down when he helped push the car out.

Mr. Sullivan is 69 years old and Mrs. Sullivan is 65, and together they are watching a settlement grow beyond their greatest of expectations, from a few wig-wams and tepees to modern homes and business places.

What a contrast they say, from the olden days to the present time when the outside world was reached only by team and buck-board, or freight wagon, with the horses "strung-out" over a crooked dusty road. ●

Twentynine Palms Fire Dept.

Nov. 12, 1943

Will Twentynine Palms Have Fire Protection?
County Maintenance Station Burns to Ground
Midnight Fire Destroys House
Garage Lost By Fire

YOU HAVE READ THESE HEADLINES IN THE DESERT TRAIL WITHIN THE LAST FEW MONTHS. YOUR HOME MAY BE NEXT! AND ALL ANY OF US CAN DO IS STAND AROUND HELPLESS, WATCHING THE FLAMES DEVOUR VALUABLE CONSTRUCTION, AND WISHING WE HAD SOME FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT!

Every time there's a fire in Twentynine Palms, you'll hear people ask "Why don't we have some fire protection and firefighting equipment out here?" And the answer can only be, "...there just hasn't been any provisions or fund set aside with which to buy it in our march of progress."

You, registered voters of the community, will have the opportunity of deciding whether Twentynine Palms is to have fire protection — through formation of a fire district, as the Chamber of Commerce now has the "ball rolling" to bring the vital matter squarely before the people.

THE SMALL, SPECIAL TAXATION WHICH WOULD BE IMPOSED UPON PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THE PROPOSED FIRE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES TO MAINTAIN THIS EQUIPMENT, WOULD BE PROPORTIONATELY SMALL.

We say, "maintain this equipment," because the American Legion post here has adopted the project of raising funds enough to secure for the community an adequate piece of firefighting equipment. Coincidentally and fatefully, the long-awaited petition, drafted in the district attorney's office in San Bernardino, and bearing the proposed fire district boundaries as determined by the state forestry department, comes to attention of the populace on the heels of announcement that the Legion is undertaking its worthy project.

Should the legion be successful in this objective — and from the enthusiasm being manifested, it will be — the small taxation will not be a burden on anyone.

The Chamber's fire protection district committee, appointed over a year ago, is securing petition signers favoring the plan. From here, the petition

will come before the County Fathers who will set a date for a public hearing. Following the hearing, a date will be set for an election, at which time all voters will have the privilege of secretly expressing their desires.

Editorially speaking, and reiterating such a statement made many times in the past, this newspaper is wholly in favor of a fire protection district, and will continue to urge its readers to uphold the Chamber in its championing of the needed protection which will benefit the entire populace.

Our contention, in advocating formation of a fire protection district for Twentynine Palms, is that it will not only save structures in case of a fire but it will effect lower fire insurance rates on present dwellings and business places.

Why should I, as owner of a vacant piece of property, vote for the increase in taxes necessary to maintain a fire department and district?" is the question put forth by a few owners of unimproved lands and lands for re-sale purposes.

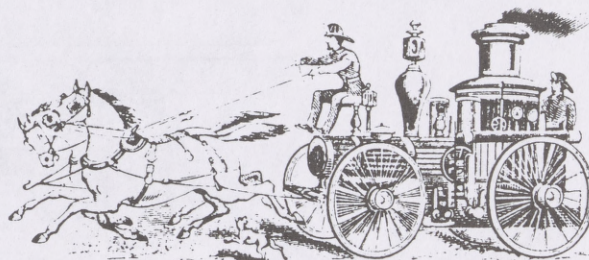
This is easy to answer if conscientiously analyzed, in that if prospective home and business-site owners on this desert are to be assured of adequate fire protection, they will undoubtedly be more prone to invest. Present owners of vacant lands will be more enthusiastic about building attractive homes after the war if they know there's a fire department to protect their holdings.

According to the petition, boundaries of the properties which would be included in the fire protection district are as follows:

Twp. 1N 9E, W $\frac{1}{2}$ twp. 1N 10E, E $\frac{1}{2}$ twp. 1N 8E, S $\frac{1}{2}$ twp. 2N 9E, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ twp. 2N 8E, N $\frac{1}{2}$ twp. 1S 9E, excluding therefrom the property of the Twentynine Palms Air Academy.

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE — LET'S SET UP A FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT.

Desert Trail



May 15, 1942

Unanimous approval of a fire district for Twentynine Palms, was the expression of the Chamber of Commerce at its meeting Tuesday night. This issue has been long discussed locally, and now plans are being formulated for circulation of a petition in the proposed fire district to bring the proposition before the voters.

Meeting at Smoke Tree Broiler, a representative group of citizens, presided over by President Harry Sherman, learned from Donald S. Gillespie, chief civil deputy district attorney of San Bernardino, the mechanics required in setting up a fire district. Deputy Gillespie came to Twentynine Palms at invitation of Chamber officials and clearly outlined the procedure to follow.

Deputy Gillespie stated that following circulation of a petition, which would require approximately 50 signatures in the proposed district, the county board of supervisors would then set a date for a public hearing at which time anyone may appear to offer an objection or recommendation, or request inclusion or exclusion from the taxable district. Should consensus of opinion of voters at the public meeting be that a district be formed, "county fathers" would then proceed to place the proposition on a ballot, he said.

If the proposition carried, supervisors would then appoint a board of fire commissioners to carry on locally and lay such plans and make recommendations as to the amount of taxation to adequately meet local requirements, Attorney Gillespie advised.

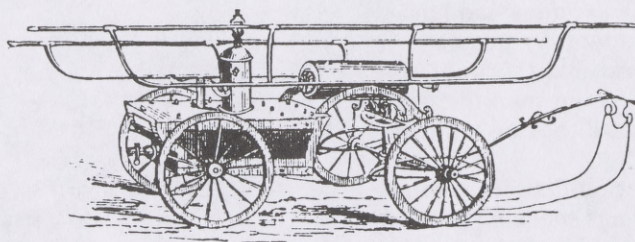
President Sherman made known he will appoint a committee to start formulating the plans.



1939
29 Palms' First
Firefighting Apparatus
Fire Chief, Bill Underhill



29 Palms' First Hose Cart
Used By Volunteers in 1938
to Lay Hose Lines at Fires.
Donated in Memory of
Kenneth Carter



World War II & Rationing

What did you do in the war Daddy? A question asked by children of those who served in the war. Any war. In the case addressed by this book, we are referring to World War II. For those who didn't serve in the Armed Forces, the war was a protracted series of inconveniences, shortages, and community efforts. The shortages went hand in hand with the inconveniences. Almost all food was rationed and in some cases, ration stamps were required. Want a pound of Coffee? Not without a ration stamp and not oftener than once a month. The same was true for sugar and many other food items we take for granted. Tires were critically short in supply and putting new rubber on your Jalopy was a major undertaking which also required ration stamps. In the case of tires, one had to prove their need. That was all academic 'cause getting gasoline to run your car wasn't all that easy for most "Home Front Rangers." There were three windshield stickers. They were "A" - "B" and "C". The "A" coupon gave you a minimum amount of gas, per week, the "B" coupon was an improvement and was issued to those working in Defense Industries but not driving a great distance. The "C" coupon allowed the most latitude and was issued to those who were "in Defense" and had to drive some distance and/or use their car in their work. New cars were virtually impossible to get. In all, it isn't hard to see how and why shortages and inconveniences worked hand in hand. Everyone complained. We wouldn't be Americans if we didn't. There were, as always, the chiselers, the operators and the

dishonest. It wouldn't have been America without them. Never the less the cause prevailed and as always the good did overcome the dark side. It was a period to be proud of. Perhaps Amercias' finest hour.

he community effort was something that occurred universally. Every town had its Air Raid Warden, Fire Warden and various other functions. All performed, for the most part, by those who didn't serve in the Armed Forces, or in replacement of those who did. They were affectionately referred to by Armed Force Personnel as the "Four Effers." For those who didn't perform officially, there were other causes that were equally important. Whatever the function was, it was designed to help win the war. In Twentynine Palms the Community worked hard, as a community, to raise money to buy a Bomber. Actually it turned out to be a P-51 Mustang. It took a Community effort - but they did manage to buy the plane. It was called "The Spirit of Twentynine Palms." A picture of it can be found elsewhere in this section.

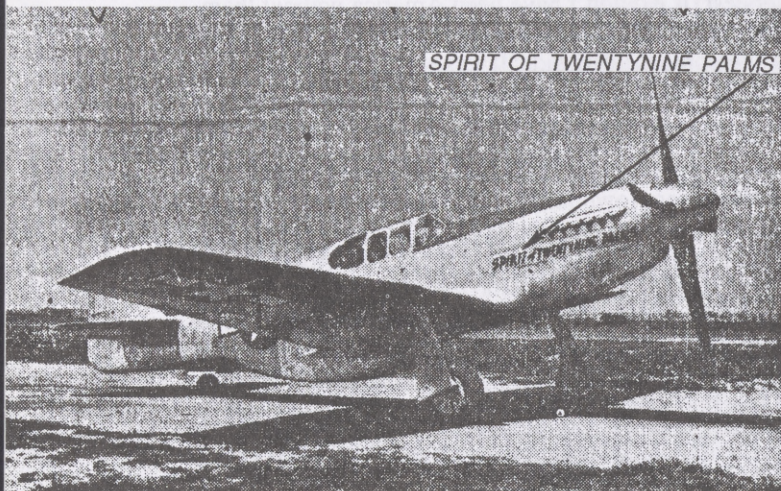
Tales of "Home Front" effort abound. Just as much as the war stories we've all heard, it was a time that brought all Americans together. When that happens, we're awesome. So for those of you who weren't around when all this happened please be patient with those of us who love to tell our war stories. We lived through a very trying time and we did it with pride. As stated before, it was America's finest hour, and we all had a hand in it. No matter how small the effort, everyone contributed.●



On the ensuing pages we will try to show how the war affected Twentynine Palms, and it's people. We have a great many short articles, and/or announcements that explain the situation far better than narrative contrived from memory. They will be presented by dates in which the original article was published. It is perhaps an unorthodox presentation, but we believe it will render the most clarity to a social phenomena that happened almost a half century ago.

The second section, or group will try to show how rationing was established, how it worked, and how it was accepted. It is suffice to say that even though rationing was an inconvenience, the people worked with it, and made it work. We think that readers will agree that the war years were interesting and active years. We also feel you will agree that the way the material is presented is the most logical approach we could have taken.

We're Buying a Bomber



ABOVE is the pursuit ship bought by Twentynine Palms bond-buying citizens. It was the American Legion Auxiliary which sponsored the "Buy a Pursuit Ship" campaign in the most gigantic, patriotic project ever undertaken by this desert community.

Friday, April 30, 1943

We're Buying a Bomber
Legion Auxiliary Sponsoring "Buy a Bomber"
Campaign;
Community, All Organizations Back Drive

BUY A BOMBER" campaign started in Twentynine Palms this week end is the most gigantic, patriotic project ever undertaken by this community. Under sponsorship of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 334, the drive locally is now under way with every organization wholeheartedly cooperating to buy a \$75,000 pursuit ship which will be named "Spirit of Twentynine Palms."

The sponsoring organization advised that the time limit to raise the prescribed quota will soon be announced. The committee in charge explains that to be successful, the entire citizenry of this community must get behind the "Buy a Bomber" campaign by purchasing within the next few months as many bonds as possible.

On the heels of announcement of the "Buy a Bomber" drive, the Lions club appointed its committee. At Wednesday night's meeting, President Verner Roman named himself, Harry Sherman and Bill Underhill as a committee, who report the Lions were all enthusiastic over the idea. Mrs. Roman, president of the Women's club, reports that the board unanimously voted to support the

campaign and she will appoint a committee. The American Legion post, under command of Dan Leahy; Valle de las Vistas club with M.C. Elliott, president, and the Chamber of Commerce, under presidency of Mr. Sherman, have all signified their intention to cooperate and will assign committeemen.

During the course of the drive, each organization will be prevailed upon to sponsor some type of stimulating event to retain interest in the community campaign, according to Mrs. Bill Underhill, who was last week appointed chairman by the sponsoring Auxiliary.

"Spirit of Twentynine Palms"

When the campaign is successfully completed, states County Chairman W.H. Pattillo of San Bernardino, and the result certified to the field director, the special events section, upon authorization by the field director of the treasury department, then certifies result to the army air forces of the war department where all arrangements are made for actual naming of the pursuit ship.

According to availability, a pursuit ship is selected, the name "Spirit of Twentynine Palms" will be stenciled on the nose and pictures will be taken by the army signal corps of the ship with the name in place.

All bomber pictures are taken under supervision of the local security officer and are then forwarded to the reviewing section in the war department in Washington for final clearance and then released to the special events section of war savings field division. The pictures are then immediately mailed out to the state administrator for release for publication in the newspaper, thus giving widespread publicity to the participating community.

Savings through war bond purchases already accomplished are almost sufficient to provide four years of college education for every young man and young woman in America between the ages of 18 and 21.



Buy War Bonds

May 7, 1943 ▶

FACTS ABOUT BUY A PURSUIT SHIP DRIVE NOW ON

SPONSORS — American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 334, with cooperation of every organization and citizen of the community.

QUOTA — \$75,000 for pursuit ship to be named "Spirit of Twentynine Palms."

BONDS BOUGHT ELSEWHERE — If you buy bonds through an other agent than the local post office, Twentynine Palms can get credit in this campaign if you will bring the committee a letter certifying you purchased the bonds there.

ISSUED UNDER PAYROLL SAVINGS PLAN — Send in the serial number and cash amount of your bonds to the committee, if your bond is not purchased from the local post office.

ALL E, F and G bonds count. ●

Sept. 8, 1943 ▶

TWENTYNINE PALMS \$10,000 OVER BOND GOAL; BUYS SHIP OVER THE TOP!

Now this community has distinction of having a pursuit ship named "Spirit of Twentynine Palms!" The required goal of \$75,000 has been over-subscribed by \$10,133.97 and still three days to go before close of the scheduled drive which is midnight, Oct. 11. To be exact, \$85,133.97 worth of bonds were purchased in the campaign.

For many weeks, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 334, organization sponsoring the drive, has conducted a concerted campaign to gain the goal. As soon as the campaign closes Monday, the chairman will submit a certified, complete report to County Chairman W.H. Pattillo. Upon receipt of this report, Mr. Pattillo will examine it and send direct to State Administrator Howard D. Mills, who in turn will promptly certify to Washington for official action and authorization to the proper armed authority for placing the name "Spirit of Twentynine Palms" on the nose of the pursuit ship.

As explained by Mr. Pattillo, it may be several months before a picture of the "Spirit of Twentynine Palms" will be released.

Local chairman of the drive, Mrs. Bill Underhill, takes this opportunity to thank the people of Twentynine Palms who so diligently helped bring to a successful conclusion this campaign. Twentynine Palms should feel a deep-seated sense of pride in its share of the nation's program to finance the war and to soon send a ship out over enemy territory bearing the name of this desert community. ●

February 18, 1944 ▶

Where's Our Bomber?

SO many people have asked the local chairman of the "Buy a Pursuit Ship" campaign of last fall: "What happened to the 'Spirit of Twentynine Palms' we bought last year with our bonds?" that a second letter was solicited from the treasury department to answer the question:

This week Chairman Mrs. Bill Underhill, received the following communication from M. Penn Phillips, vice-chairman of the war finance committee for southern California:

"You are advised that your successful bomber campaign was certified to Washington under date of Nov. 3, 1943. There is usually quite a long delay in the receipt of these pictures due to the many pictures that have to be taken by the signal corps. However, Washington has been trying to hurry these along to us as soon as possible and you may rest assured that as soon as they are received in this office they will be forwarded to you." ●

WE'RE BUYING A BOMBER

Friday, April 30, 1943	\$ 7,381.25
Friday, May 14, 1943	\$14,843.73
Friday, May 21, 1943	\$17,368.73
Friday May 28, 1943	\$20,443.73
Friday, June 4, 1943	\$22,653.73
Friday, June 11, 1943	\$24,418.73
Friday, June 18, 1943	\$24,418.73
Friday, June 25, 1943	\$26,548.73

OVER THE TOP

Over subscribed by \$10,133.97 — Buys Bomber	
Friday, July 16, 1943	\$30,381.23 Temperature Rises
Friday, July 23, 1943	\$32,556.22
Friday, July 30, 1943	\$35,706.22
Friday, Aug. 6, 1943	\$37,706.22
Friday, Aug. 13, 1943	\$37,706.22
Friday, Aug. 20, 1943	\$37,706.22
Friday, Aug. 27, 1943	\$37,706.22
Friday, Sept. 3, 1943	\$44,031.22
Friday, Sept. 10, 1943	\$45,906.22
Friday, Sept. 17, 1943	\$48,831.22
Friday, Sept. 24, 1943	\$65,345.47 Nearing Goal!
Friday, Oct. 1, 1943	\$65,345.47
Friday, Oct. 8, 1943	\$85,133.97

Buy War Bonds

August 2, 1942 ▶

\$100 CHECK SENT USO

Check No. 1 for \$100 from the bank account of the local USO unit was sent yesterday to Karl D. Muth, county chairman of the USO war fund campaign. This amount, representing half of the sum collected in the recent drive, was Twentynine Palms' first contribution sent in to headquarters.

The check was signed by Mrs. Leonard Wikoff, head of the financial committee who directed the local campaign, and Mrs. Bill Underhill, general chairman. The local unit now has a bank balance of \$121.67 to be used locally. At the present time, there is no project needed here, but the committee is prepared for any influx of soldiers. ●

March 27, 1942 ▶

612 Register for Gas; Area Gains 200 Cars

Making application for gas ration books in Twentynine Palms during the registration period last week were 612 auto owners, reports School Site Administrator Miss Margaret Lynch. An estimated number of 200 cars changed their registration from former addresses to Twentynine Palms, which ultimately will be of great benefit to this desert community as new roads and maintenance are based on cars registered and amount of road tax therefrom.

Registration was carried on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at the grammar school for the general public with the following assisting Miss Lynch: Mrs. Verner Roman, Mrs. Sam Bailey, Mrs. John Bagley, Mrs. Inez Lawver, Mrs. W. Egbert Schenck, Mrs. Newell Shafer, Mrs. Ross Culver, Mrs. Phil Smith, Mrs. Bob Van Lahr, Mrs. Ed Gilpin, Mrs. Ted Hayes, Mrs. D.S. Cummins, Mrs. Marjorie Roalfe; teachers Miss Ann Davis, Miss Mary Lois Lane, Miss Virginia Christy and Mrs. Pearl Massaad.

Cars owned by army and civilian personnel at Condor Field were registered Saturday and Sunday by the teachers.

Applications for "B" books are obtainable from either Dave Paste, Sam Bailey or Miss Lynch. ●

April 1, 1942 ▶

War Ration Books to 941

Persons in Twentynine Palms given their first ration books of World War No. II during the four-day registration period from Monday to Thursday at the elementary school totaled 941. Miss Margaret Lynch, principal, was chairman and she was aided by teachers and a number of other patriotic men and women of the community.

Fifty other persons applied but were not issued books because they had too much sugar in their possession.

Rules and regulations governing the sugar rationing books are explained on each, however, further instructions are related.

In using the ration coupon, householders are informed that the first coupon is good until midnight, Saturday, May 16. The others are usable in order, one coupon for each two-week period from midnight to midnight Saturday. Each coupon is good for one pound of sugar, each family being entitled to the number of pounds issued them in books. It is further explained that coupons must be used within the designated period or forfeited. Coupons cannot be allowed to accumulate.

While authorities have not yet issued explicit rules, the above information has been gained through the commercial grocers association. ●

April 24, 1942 ▶

April Tire Quota Revealed

April quota of tires for Twentynine Palms, under the Redlands tire rationing board, has entitled qualifying auto owners to the following, according to word form the county defense council:

New passenger tires, 2; retreads, 14; new passenger tubes, 8; new truck tires, 5; truck retreads, 5; truck tubes, 3.

Magnus Mead, chairman of the Redlands tire rationing board, informs local chairman Bill Underhill that the following received the Twentynine Palms March quota of tires and tubes:

Burl Stonecipher, 1 tube; Ben Steeg, 1 tube; Lieut. Archie S. Adair, 1 new tire; Walter Yuetter, 2 obsolete tires and 2 tubes; Leonard Wikoff (under the non-quota and with priority number as utility), 4 tires, 4 tubes. ●

Friday, Sept. 4, 1942 ►

Navy Calls for Loan of Binoculars During Wartime

Fighting on the seven seas of the world, the United States navy is issuing another call to patriotic citizens for the loan of binoculars, the navy department announced today.

The navy needs Zeiss or Bausch and Lomb, either six power, 30 mm., or seven power, 50 mm. binoculars. There also is need for a limited number of Zeiss or Bausch and Lomb 7x35, 8x40 and 8.56 binoculars and the 6x30 binoculars manufactured for the navy during World War I.

Bill Hatch is the proud owner of a certificate presented his father the late William B. Hatch, Sr., for loan of binoculars during World War I. The certificate, signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt (then assistant secretary of the navy), was sent to Mr. Hatch along with the binoculars which were returned in perfect condition after the great war.

To those offering their binoculars, the navy will pay \$1. If they are available after the war, they will be returned to the donor, in which case the \$1 will constitute rental and depreciation charges, the navy is not authorized to accept gifts or free loans, it was stated. ●

October 2, 1942 ►

Used Tires "Frozen"

The Office of Price Administration yesterday "froze" the sale of used tires and tubes and revealed that used tires soon would be rationed to provide for all essential uses in conformity with the Baruch rubber committee recommendation.

The order was issued to "freeze" the present supply of used tires pending completion of the new rationing program, which will govern use of these tires just as present rationing regulations control the use of new and re-capped tires, the OPA said. ●

Friday, November 27, 1942 ►

DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED TO SERVE!

Don't wait to be asked! Come and offer your services to the aircraft observation post! This is national "Women at War Week," Nov. 22 to 28, and a perfect opportunity for you women who have said, "I'd like to do some war work, but I don't know where I'd fit in."

All you need do is contact any one of the aircraft observation post inspectors, Mrs. Ross Culver, Dan Leahy, Frank Bagley, E.H. Nicholes or Irv Enger, and a place will be found for you — not just this week, but for certain hours for the duration. You need not be hesitant because you think you lack knowledge on airplanes. Instructions are simple — BUT THE JOB IS IMPORTANT TO YOUR COUNTRY!

You will be performing a REAL PATRIOTIC service by volunteering your services for the aircraft observation post. ●

Jan. 1, 1943 ►

TIRE INSPECTION STATIONS READY; DON'T WAIT 'TIL DEADLINE

Two tire inspection stations — Union Oil Service and King's Service station at four corners — are ready, willing and able to inspect the nearly 700 passenger cars and trucks and other commercial vehicles in Twentynine Palms.

With Jan. 31 the deadline for holders of A, B or C books, Ralph Owen and Bert King point out that as only a few drivers have come in for inspection, this means that for the next 31 days there will have to be an average of 20 cars a day report to their stations to comply with the law inspection deadline for trucks and other commercial vehicles, however, is Jan. 15.

The portion of the original gasoline rationing application, which bears the serial numbers of the five tires on the car, must be kept in the car at all times and must be submitted to Tire Inspectors King and Owen. ●

Jan 1, 1943 ►

Keep Our Flag Flying Your New Year's RESOLUTION A Bond Every Pay Day!

PHANTOM float of Twentynine Palms in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses association mythical "Parade of War Bonds" today won first place in its class. This is a distinction to Twentynine Palms as hundreds of cities throughout the world entered in this event.

Announcement of prize winners was made over NBC from the Rose Bowl in Pasadena at the half — intermission of the Georgia-U.C.L.A. football game.

Honolulu won sweepstakes; Houston, Tex., the grand prize; Glendale, the theme prize, as announced by James K. Ingham, president of the Tournament of Roses assn. He said that during the period from Nov. 23 to Dec. 23, cities entered in the mythical parade of war bonds had sold over \$65,000,000 worth of stamps and bonds.

"Our entry," said M.G. ('Watty') Watkins, Chamber of Commerce secretary, who was responsible for the entry, "showed a quota of \$2200 — enough to buy a glider — however, Twentynine Palms went way over the quota." During the month from Nov. 23 to Dec. 23, \$11,737.50 worth of war bonds and stamps were sold here. Postmaster Ben Steeg worked with "Watty" in making the report. ●

Friday, February 19, 1943 ►

Registration for War Ration Book No. 2;
All Asked to School Monday

SPREAD out your pantry supplies on the kitchen table Sunday and be ready to go to the grammar school Monday morning for registration for war ration book 2. Classes will not be in session all day Monday, Feb. 22, so teachers Miss Margaret Lynch and Miss Virginia Christie, in charge, request as many as possible to come this day, though Friday is the final day. They also impress the fact that one **MUST** bring his sugar ration book when signing for book number 2.

Hours for registration during the coming week are as follows: Monday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 3 to 8.

Registration of residents of Yucca Valley and vicinity will be handled by Miss Hazel Barker at the Yucca Valley school. Hours there are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, from 2 to 6 o'clock; Friday, 2 to 8 p.m.

Every applicant must present a "consumer declaration" properly filled out and signed. These forms will be conspicuously placed in the various stores so applicants may know in advance what information is required. It is not necessary to have a separate declaration for each member of the family — one will cover all. Aside from the names of the persons for whom the declaration is made, and a place for address and signature, the consumer declaration sheet simply asks for the amounts of coffee on hand as of Nov. 28 — when coffee rationing started — and of canned goods on hand as of Feb. 21 — the first day of the "freeze."

It will not be necessary for the housewife to include all cans, bottles and jars containing less than 8 ounces and she will be permitted to retain five cans for each person in the family. This "pantry census" must include all commercially canned fruits (including spiced) canned vegetables, fruit and vegetable juices, soups, chili and catsup.

The following need not be counted or declared: canned olives, canned meat and fish.●

MARCH 12, 1943 ►

**EMERGENCY RATIONS FOR AREA
SOUGHT BY DEFENSE COUNCIL; OPA
TAKES UP REMOTE TOWN PROBLEM**

EMERGENCY supply of rations for residents of Twentynine Palms is being sought through official channels by the local and county defense council, headed by Mrs. Leonard Wikoff. This week a petition, to be sent to Washington, D.C., is being circulated and signed by hundreds of adults of this community.

"Twentynine Palms in this instance is to be a 'test case'," explained Mrs. Wikoff, "and should Washington deem it advisable that such remote

places as this be given extra ration points, like consideration will undoubtedly be given other towns in the desert area."

Drafted by Grant Dimmett, OPA field coordinator of Southern California, the petition asks the OPA to grant residents of Twentynine Palms district 96 points per person for each 30-day period, Mr. Dimmett believing this the most satisfactory way to handle the problem.

The petition points out the reasons for the additional rations as: "1. We are situated 60 miles from the nearest town where adequate stores of food are available. 2. We are without rail transportation and on a military road which is subject to closing at any time. 3. Practically 90 percent of what we eat must come from containers. 4.48 points per person for a 30-day period is entirely out of the question to sustain us."

Tuesday, Mrs. Wikoff, Frank Bagley, as vice-chairman of the local defense council; Dave Poste, head of the ration advisory board; Mrs. Bagley, as a storekeeper; Sam Bailey and Larry Larsen, representing the Air Academy, attended three important meetings in San Bernardino. In fact, it was "Twentynine Palms day" in that city, officials giving every consideration to the representatives seeking a solution as to Twentynine Palms getting sufficient food.

The group attended a farm bureau meeting under direction of A.G. Salter, county agriculture agent and a member of the county defense council home food production committee. At this meeting it was cited that production of fresh vegetables during the next year will be considerably less than that of 1942 and the county defense council hopes to work out a plan whereby growings from victory gardens in other areas will be redistributed to such places as Twentynine Palms could not raise enough to supplement rationed products.

Sometime during the next few days the farm bureau is sending a representative to make a survey as to what growing could be done in this section of the desert. When he comes, a local group familiar with agriculture here, will confer with him. His report will accompany the petition to the capitol.

Mrs. Wikoff and the others from here then attended a county defense council meeting at which time they were given the opportunity to explain the problem faced by the desert communities in the way of fresh foods. A.W. Walker, coordinator for San Bernardino county defense council was among council members present. C.E. Geier, chairman, presided. The problem was discussed at length. At a round-table discussion later with Mr. Grier, Mr. Dimmett and Mr. Walker the outcome was that Twentynine Palms be used as a "test case" for the desert area and the petition drafted.

Developments of the matter so vital to the community will be reported as they take place.●

Friday, April 2, 1943 ►

29 Palms War Bond Parade Winner

HANTOM float of Twentynine Palms in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses association mythical "Parade of War Bonds" today won first place in its class. This is a distinction to Twentynine Palms as hundreds of cities throughout the world entered in this event. ●

Friday, April 2, 1943 ►

Meat, Butter Rationing Calls for Careful Planning

LIKE all women in every town and hamlet throughout the country, Twentynine Palms housewives began Monday morning to ponder over just what and how much they could buy with the little red stamps from war ration book No. 2. They were spotted carefully studying charts on how many ounces of meat, how much butter, etc., they will be allowed to get with each point.

They found that all fresh, frozen, cured, smoked and canned meats and meat products derived from beef, veal, lamb, mutton and pork, as well as "variety meats" and sausages; canned fish and canned shellfish were on the ration list. They also learned that their red stamps would have to be used in buying the most important natural and processed cheeses and most of their derivatives, but not the cottage type and cream cheeses; and most edible fats and oils, including butter, lard, margarine, shortening, salad oils and cooking oils (excluding mayonnaise and salad dressings).

Changes in point values will be made from time to time, but probably not oftener than once a month, to reflect changes in supply and in consumer demand, according to OWI. ●

Friday, April 2, 1943 ►

RATIONING

Canned Foods — Stamps D, E and F in Ration Book No. 2 good beginning April 1

Meat, Butter, Etc. — Red stamps: A, good from March 29 to April 30; B, good from April 4 to April 30.

Coffee — Coupons 26 in Ration Book No. 1, good for one pound from March 22 to April 25.

Sugar — Coupon No. 12 in Ration Book No. 1, good for five pounds to May 31.

Tires — No restriction, or dates, on re-capping of passenger car tires with "passenger type camelback."

Shoes — Stamp No. 17 in Ration Book No. 1, good for one pair of shoes until June. 16.

Gasoline — "A" book coupons No. 5, good from March 22 through May 21, 1943.



The Desert Trail

1942 this was the lineup for "Bacon Day" at the market. You got bacon if you had a coupon and they didn't run out - on the "up side," you always met great people.

May 1, 1942

SUGAR RATIONING REGISTRATION BEGINS MONDAY

One — and only one — member of each family unit is to go to the elementary school and register May 4, 5, 6 or 7, for sugar rationing books. And every family unit, or single person over 18 not a member of a family unit, must apply.

As principal of the school, Miss Margaret Lynch aided by teacher's and several women is in charge of registration and she announces that minimum school days will be observed next Monday to Thursday, inclusive. School hours are 9 to 2. Sugar registration hours are 2 to 9 p.m. and applicants are urged to appear early as considerable time is required in filling out the blanks.

To accomplish this big job in a short space of time, the Office of Price Administration, which administers rationing, is urging every applicant for a ration book to come prepared with accurate information to all questions which the registrars will ask when filling out the application form. Vital information each applicant must be prepared to quote is:

1. Applicants should come prepared with a list of family members giving exact name of each.

2. An exact description of each member of the family unit, giving height, weight, color of eyes, color of hair, age and sex of each.

3. The person who registers for the family unit must state his or her exact relationship to each member of it.

4. It is necessary to know to the pound how much sugar is in the possession of the household. The amount of sugar will be divided by the number of people in the family units and stamps will be torn out by the registrar for all sugar in excess of two pounds per person. If more than four stamps have to be removed, issuance of the book will be withheld until later.

A family unit has been defined by OPA as "A group of two or more individuals consisting of all persons who are living together in the same household who are related by blood or marriage."

Applicants are warned that the war ration cards may be used later in case of any other type rationing, so every family **MUST** have one. ●

Flag Day, June 14, 1943 ►

June 14 is Flag Day, and this year it has a very special significance. The United States and its Allies are engaged in a crucial battle to preserve the very principles for which the American Flag stands. To those American boys, who are going through hell for their country, the Flag is the symbol of all they are fighting for. They cheer and slap each other on the back as our Flag is unfurled on a newly-won height, like Attu. They feel a fierce stir of pride in their country when the colors go up. It's the banner they are willing to die for, but hope to live for; it stands for all that is best back home, for all the things they want to return to. And as we commemorate Flag Day, let's try to measure up to those boys we have in the service; those boys who are keeping the Flag flying! ... Flag Day will be occasion when Twentynine Palms will pay high tribute to those men, whose names are on the honor roll, donated by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 334, to be dedicated Monday.

Arthur Krushat, Navy
Roy Coalson, Army
Ted Guinan, Navy
Clyde Wikadal, Army
Les Earenfight, Army
Bud Taylor, Air Corps
James E. Cole, Army
Bill Jacobs, Army
John Atkinson, Army
Bill Mayo, Air Corps
Earl Mayo, Army
Bill Barnett, Marines
Dick Harmon, Army
Luther Hill, Air Corps
Walter Drake, Air Corps
Oscar Kerby, Marines
Eddie Cooke, Navy
Bill Holmes, Army
Dan Junker, Navy (Prisoner)
Bill Vanderslice, Army
Bob Geller, Army
Melzer Irvine, Marines
Bob Philipps, Marines
Bill Phelps, Army
Wallace Trigg, Army

A.D. Conner, Army
Tom Heely, Air Corps
Frank Beech, Navy
Bill Beech, Air Corps
Brett Page, Army
Jack Tobin, Air Corps
Bill Krushat, Air Corps
Stanley Krushat, Air Corps
Lester Krushat, Navy
Derald Martin, Air Corps
Troy Martin, Air Corps
Louis Gates, Navy
Karl Schapel, Army
John Cash, Army
Bert Whited, Army
Jim McGee, Army
Eugene Curry, Army
Bob Lage, Army
Isaiah McManaman, Army
Rufus McManaman, Army
Harold Hockett, Air Corps
Ralph McCrea, Jr., Army
Alan Bagley, Air Corps
John Bagley, Air Corps
Chan Flickinger, Army
Lester King, Army

Fri. July 30, 1943 ►

PAINTED red, white and blue and now being put to good use are the USO waiting stations for soldiers at four corners and the plaza. Only thing that remains to be done is the printing of "USO" in blue on the white posts.

Harry G. Sherman, a member of the local USO committee and also Chamber of Commerce president, was in charge of the project. Assisted by Ralph Guthridge, prominent citizen, the two painted the stations with a red roof, white posts and blue bench. The waiting stations were constructed by Contractor Walt Berg. ●

Fri. July 30, 1943 ►

Wartime Canning Tips Save Sugar

The local ration board has been confronted with the problem of women canners of Twenty-nine Palms using pre-war canning methods and then being disappointed because the board couldn't grant more than each person's canning sugar allotment.

To help canners, the board wants to explain the methods of "Stretching" canning sugar set down by OPA in an effort to have housewives can as much fresh fruit as possible this summer.

Stretching is as follows: "To produce four quarts from each pound of sugar means using one-half cup of sugar to each quart.

"As a rule it requires three-fourths to one cup of liquid for each quart jar, so a thin or moderately thin syrup must be used to "stretch" the sugar. For a thin syrup, use one third cup of sugar to one cup of water, and for a moderately thin syrup, use one-third to one cup of water.

"In canning tart fruit, it may be desired to use one cup of sugar for each cup of water. This can be done, and still have a yield of four quarts per pound of sugar, by putting up other less-tart fruit in a thin syrup or even by using water instead of syrup and then sweetening the fruit when used. Sugar may also be saved by canning tart fruit in a syrup made from the juice of a sweet fruit plus sugar, instead of using water and sugar, or by putting up fruits or fruit juice which do not require any sugar." ●

Sept. 22, 1947 ►

Airport Acquired by San Bernardino County From W.A.A.

Twentynine Palms, Mr. Clarence W. Hull of the legal division of the War Assets Administration announces that the Twentynine Palms Airport has granted the request of San Bernardino county to acquire the Airport.

The County filed its application upon the strength that the Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce would sub-lease it, so in turn they could sub-let it to private interests, presumably for a public airport.

This airport has the distinction of being first a Naval glider training school, then an Army Training School, and now it is in the hands of the county.

It is ideal for recreational purposes for there is a tennis court, swimming pool, and hand ball court and it would be ideal for midget auto races, air meets, model aircraft meets; and in fact many things that would be of benefit to the whole valley. ●

Sept. 3, 1943 ►

PRIVATE PARTIES HAVE TO ABIDE BY CEILING PRICES ON ARTICLES SOLD

PRIVATE individuals are required to abide by ceiling prices just like dealers and merchants, Sam Bailey, chairman of the local ration board warns. The penalty is three times the amount of the difference between the ceiling price and the amount accepted for the merchandise, he said, according to rulings set down by OPA.

Because of the market shortage of many household conveniences, such as refrigerators, washing machines and radios, many private owners are being tempted to dispose of these articles at high prices to private buyers, oftentimes at prices above the legal ceiling imposed by the OPA, Bailey said. In one instance a private individual sold a refrigerator for \$125, not knowing that the ceiling was only \$18.50. The purchaser later demanded \$319.50, under the penalty prescribed by law, he explained.

The local board has list of most articles and ceiling prices, and both buyers and sellers may consult this source of information. ●

Sept. 3, 1943 ►

TO HELP give our fighting forces in foreign lands more "SMOKES," the American Legion and Auxiliary throughout the state are instituting a TAG DAY so members of posts and units and all friends may participate and contribute to this worthy cause. The local unit, No. 334, is sponsoring the big event and has chosen Tuesday, Sept. 7 as Twentynine Palms TAG DAY.

All day Tuesday, Mrs. Tom Loudon and a committee will be stationed around town with the red, white and blue sealed coin boxes to accept donations. Until Sept. 11 the containers will be at the various stores. With each contribution a tag, of patriotic design inscribed "I have sent cigarettes through the American Legion to our fighting men overseas," will be given.

A nickel is all it takes — and what a comforting thought when you toss that nickel, or a dime, or whatever change is handy, into the box, to know that you personally bought a package or two of cigarettes for the boy "out there."

Every cent goes for cigarettes for servicemen overseas who do not have access to a canteen. On every pack sent by Twentynine Palms (5 cents a pack) a sticker, bearing the name of American Legion Desert Outpost, post No. 334 and Auxiliary, will replace the familiar revenue stamp. On orders of \$100 or more, self-addressed acknowledgement cards will be placed in each individual carton. This will make it simple and easy for the recipient to express his appreciation direct to the donor, it is explained by Department Commander William P. Haughton of the American Legion.

Haughton adds, "Remember, they cannot buy cigarettes in fox holes, swamps, jungles or on the mountain slopes."

Plans for the drive were made Wednesday afternoon when the newly-elected Auxiliary board members were entertained at dessert by their president-elect. Present were Mesdames Bill Hockett, Tom Loudon, Harry Sherman, Tom Martin, Walt Godwin, Jack Cones, Tom Marlow, Clyde McAleer, Ben Steeg, Thelma Ryan, retiring leader, and Mrs. Bill Underhill, 1943-'44 president.

This was the first meeting of the new executive board who also discussed a plan for sending Christmas remembrances to all servicemen from Twentynine Palms. Friends and relatives of these men are asked to send immediately latest addresses to the Desert Trail. ●

Sept. 10, 1943 ►

ANTI-FREEZE COMPOUND AGAIN AVAILABLE

HAVING been previously notified by wholesalers that anti-freeze radiator compound had been "frozen" by OPA, Tom Martin of the 29 Palms garage has been informing his customers to this effect, but today he received notice that a recent amendment to the order permits all western and northwestern states garage men to sell this compound.

The local garage man now takes this opportunity to retract the warning previously issued, and advises motorists to place their orders for necessary needs. ●

Oct. 22, 1943 ►

WAR CHEST COMMITTEE for TWENTYNINE PALMS General Chairman — Mrs. Bill Underhill. Vice-Chairman — Mrs. H.G. Sherman.

Committee Chairmen

Finance — Mrs. Bob Van Lahr.
Advance Gifts — Mrs. Lida Donnell.
Organizations — Mrs. Gordon Shaffer.
Lists — E.H. Nicholes.
Business Firms — M.G. Watkins.
Residential — Mrs. Bill Hatch.
Employees — Miss Virginia Christie.
Mail Solicitation — Mrs. Chas. Kelley.
Air Academy (Civilian) — Bill Williams, chmn.; Helen Parsons, Norm Thompson, Gordon Shaffer, Wallace Trigg, Newell Shafer.
Condor Field Soldiers — Lt. Jas. L. Thompson, Lt. Fred Calkins.
Schools — Mrs. Ted Hayes, elementary; Mrs. Bert King, high school.
Auditing — Frank Bagley.
Publicity — Bill Underhill.

Dec. 3, 1943 ▶

C GASOLINE SALES CUT 25 %
URTAILMENT of civilian driving and placing of gasoline sales on a more stringent quota basis. Those are results of the new 25 per cent cut in allotments to retail and wholesale dealers under orders of Petroleum Administrator of War Harold L. Ickes. But Twentynine Palms service station operators have given the problem thorough study and have worked out a system now in effect.

Here is the ultimatum: Under ruling set down by the petroleum administrator, all service stations and wholesale dealers in gasoline have had their allotments cut 25 percent below their October and November output, according to statement of Bert King of Shell, W.D. Mills of Union, Roy Sherman and Ray Flickinger of Standard stations, and Frank Bagley, local Standard wholesale distributor.

If each station sold its month's quota the first few days of the month, Twentynine Palms motorists would be left without any gasoline for remaining days of the 30-day period, the dealers point out. So, to prevent this, and in the interest of local car owners, the five men met last night and decided on a daily quota system, and to close every station each Wednesday in addition to their usual holiday during the week.

Each dealer has figured out how much gasoline he will be allowed each month. He has divided this amount into 21 working days. When each day's quota of gasoline is sold, pumps are locked until the next morning, the men explain.

Local dealers request patrons to bear with them in this new arrangement and understand that it is done as an aid to gasoline users. The new set-up has apparently been ordered by the petroleum administrator because of failure of the ration system, through lack of cooperation on the part of citizens of the nation, it is averred. ●

OUR MEN IN SERVICE

LT. STANLEY KRUSHAT

"Dear Bill:

"How is everything in the desert? I sure miss the old place, and when I come home, it will be my first stop.

"I am somewhere in Italy with the 15th Air Force.

"Mom sends me the Trail now and then and I really 'eat it up.'

"I would appreciate it if you would send me the addresses of any of the boys who are in Italy, as I might be close to them and not know it.

"I'll see you when I get back."

Lt. Stanley Krushat 0-756997

774 Sqdn. 463 B.G.

APO 520, care Postmaster

New York City, N.Y.

December 10, 1943 ▶

B Points for Fat
EGINNING on December 13, the American housewife will not only receive the customary four cents for each pound of fat she turns in to the butcher, but she will also be rewarded with two meat-ration points. Officials in charge of fat salvage hope that this new inducement will more than double the nine million pounds of fat now being turned in monthly. In fact, they have set a goal of 300 million pounds for the next year — and that would mean 25 million pounds per month. It is estimated that two-thirds of the nation's housewives have not turned in waste fats — fats that can be used in the making of explosives.

In cooperation with the fat salvage committee, retail food dealers — both chain and independent — will renew their efforts to convince Mrs. America of the absolute necessity of saving waste fats and handing them in as a means toward vitally helping the war effort. During the month of August only 43.5 per cent of the national quota was attained, and this in spite of the fact that the rule requiring fats to be strained was relaxed.

The sooner Mrs. America "comes out of the kitchen" with plenty of "fat for the fire" the sooner we'll be able to blast out the enemies of democracy. ●

Friday, December 11, 1943 ▶

Gas Ration coupons must bear license number, and state, under the rules set down by the OPA. Gas ration mileage coupons must bear on the reverse side in ink the vehicle license number for which it is issued and the name of the state in which the car is registered, points out David Poste, Chairman of the local ration advisory board.

Every registrant is required to follow these orders before the coupon may be used to purchase gasoline.

This ruling serves as a safety measure, as a preventative against any other person using the coupons.

Applications for gasoline for non-highway purposes are now available at Mr. Poste's as are receipts for emergency transfer of gasoline. These latter are to be used only in case of acute emergency involving threat of life, health or valuable property. ●

WHEN mailing Christmas cards to our boys in service overseas, remember that a three-cent stamp is required by the postal department; 1½-cent stamps, even on unsealed envelopes, will not carry the greeting to its destination. MAIL THOSE CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW to avoid disappointment. ●

Dec. 18, 1942 ►

Ship Christening, Yucca School Reward for Winning State Salvage Campaign

As reward for winning the state school salvage drive, Yucca Valley school will have the honor this week end of christening one of Uncle Sam's ships, according to Harvey Axley, salvage chairman for the Twentynine Palms desert area.

Tomorrow morning, Saturday, at 7 o'clock, Ray Royal, one of the Yucca Valley school pupils, will christen a ship at Wilmington. His teacher, Miss Hazel Barker, will accompany him and be a witness. Ray is one of the 13 pupils who carried on a vigorous drive for scrap during the last many weeks.

Mr. Axley reported that WPA workers and trucks are in Twentynine Palms all this week to collect scrap in outlying territories and any persons knowing the whereabouts of any salvage are asked to contact him or any other members of the committee.

A.W. Walker, county salvage committee chairman, has notified Mr. Axley that San Bernardino county has been awarded the victory pennant for its achievement in the salvage collection drive. Chairman Walker commended the local committee on its endeavors to distinguish the county and help in the war effort. ●

WAR RATION BOOKS TO 941

Persons in Twentynine Palms given their first ration books of World War No. II during the four-day registration period from Monday to Thursday at the elementary school totaled 941. Miss Margaret Lynch, principal, was chairman and she was aided by teachers and a number of other patriotic men and women of the community.

Fifty other persons applied but were not issued books because they had too much sugar in their possession.

Rules and regulations governing the sugar rationing books are explained on each; however, further instructions are related.

In using the ration coupons, householders are informed that the first coupon is good until midnight, Saturday, May 16. The others are usable in order, one coupon for each two-week period from midnight to midnight Saturday. Each coupon is good for one pound of sugar, each family being entitled to the number of pounds issued them in books. It is further explained that coupons must be used within the designated period or forfeited. Coupons cannot be allowed to accumulate.

While authorities have not yet issued explicit rules, the above information has been gained through the Commercial Grocers Association. ●

April 30, 1943 ►

AIRCRAFT WATCHERS

Saturday, May 1—

A—Frank Horner; B—Virginia Christie; C—Pearl Massaad; D—L. Stonecipher.

Sunday, May 2—

A—Ted Holderman; D—Ray Flick, Jr.; C—Ralph King; D—E. B. Clarke.

Monday, May 3—

A—Bill Greene; B—Ralph Guthridge; C—Mrs. W.D. Wright; D—Dan Jones.

Tuesday, May 4—

A—Clara Cones; B—Bill Underhill; C—Lora Randall; D—W.E. Ketcham.

Wednesday, May 5—

A—V. Roman; B—Betty Carnes; C—W. Shwalter; D—Phil Flick.

Thursday, May 6—

A—Duane Jacobs; B—Major Huber; C—Selma Culver; D—S.D. Marks.

Friday, May 7—

A—S. Anthony; B—Grace Willis; C—Harry Grimm; D—G. Michels, Sr.

Saturday, May 8—

A—Barbara Mahrt; B—Ted Hayes; C—Bill Horner; D—Walt Berg.

Sunday, May 9—

A—McKitrick; B—Irv Enger; C—Elmer Camp; D—Rich Cain.

Sunday, Nov. 1—

A—L. Jacobs; B—C. Cones; C—H. Boling; D—W.E. Ketcham.

Monday, Nov. 2—

A—C. McAleer; B—W.E. Schenck; C—O.J. Cones; D—F. DeMent.

Tuesday, Nov. 3—

A—Harlow Jones; B—A.D. Conner; C—Womack; D—Les Cross.

Wednesday, Nov. 4—

A—Bill Hatch; B—J. Meyer; C—Bill Pennell; D—Les Cross.

Thursday, Nov. 5—

A—Sam Marks; B—Bill Smith; C—S. Anthony; D—D.S. Cummins.

Friday, Nov. 6—

A—Cliff Blake; B—Mrs. Randall; C—Ruth Nicholes; D—T.L. Martin.

Saturday, Nov. 7—

A—T.E. Holderman; B—Mrs. Greenfield; C—C.P. Zimmers; D—F. Chamberlin.

NOTICE: Volunteers for this important service are under orders of the Fourth Interceptor Command, army, and if their relief does not appear, the Observer should contact the Inspector, and under no consideration abandon the post.

Oct. 30, 1942

Civilian aircraft watchers for the next nine days are as follows, with watches now: A—6 to 9 a.m.; B—9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; C—1 to 5 p.m.; D—5 to 8 p.m.:

Rationing

October 30, 1942

P RATIONING

Price Administrator Henderson ordered nationwide rationing of coffee, effective at midnight on Nov. 28, on the basis of one pound each five weeks — about a cup a day — for all persons who were 15 years of age or older when they registered for sugar supplies on May 4-5. All retail sales of coffee will be frozen at midnight, Nov. 21, for the week before rationing begins in order to permit merchants to stock their shelves. Consumers will not have to register to obtain coffee. They will use their sugar rationing book. To get the first coffee ration, the consumer will be required to surrender the last stamp — No. 28 — in the sugar book. Subsequent rations of coffee will be on coupons taken in sequence toward the center of the book.

Rubber Director Jeffers reported chemists would develop "within five or six months" a 100 percent synthetic tire good for all but military and heavy truck duty, but such tires will be allotted for essential civilian driving only. The first large synthetic rubber plant will be opened at Institute, W.Va., some time in December. "Some time after mid-1943, we ought to have enough synthetic tires to make an appreciable difference in the situation regarding essential driving. Some time in 1944, we ought to have enough to begin to furnish tires to civilians for family use," he said. Special gasoline rations will be available for motorists who are away from home when nationwide mileage rationing begins, and special allowances will be made for motorists who must move their cars "in the event of a bona fide change of residence," but not for moves from summer to winter homes. Secretary of Agriculture Wickard said meat consumption of 2½ pounds a week per person would mean considerable less meat for persons "who have always had comfortable incomes" and more meat "for people whose purchasing power has increased only recently."

F MANPOWER AND PRODUCTION

Federal Works Administrator Fleming directed state administrators to reinterview and reclassify the 375,000 workers on WPA rolls with a view to expediting the program of putting qualified workers into war industry and farm jobs. The order will also apply to all those waiting assign-

ment to WPA. Under Secretary of War Patterson reported 4000 experienced miners of copper and other vitally needed metals are receiving army furloughs to relieve a labor shortage in that category. The men, who are being furloughed to the mines as civilians and who leave the army on a volunteer basis, will be called back to active duty if they leave their jobs at the mines or if the need for them is eliminated, he said. War Secretary Stimson said the army is studying a plan to return older soldiers to civilian life.

President Roosevelt told his press conference that the experiences of U.S. planes and tanks in actual combat have prompted a reduction in volume schedules in order to concentrate on heavier, more effective types of these war machines. While the number of tanks produced will be smaller than scheduled a year ago, the total production will have virtually the same weight, using the same steel tonnage as called for in the original, larger program. The President said the present program calls for fewer actual planes than planned a year ago, but that the decrease is being translated into more gun powder, longer range and generally greater combat effectiveness.

The current scrap drive has achieved "amazing results" and has raised steel production to 100 percent, WPB Chairman Nelson reported. An order was issued by the WPB requiring more than 400 municipalities to use their regular trash collection equipment to collect and segregate scrap cans as part of a campaign to recover 1,000,000 tons of steel and 10,000 tons of pure tin from tin cans. The board announced "hosiery that can be repaired or mended for future use is not being asked for by the government. Only after hosiery is discarded as being completely unusable should it be placed aside for salvage purposes."

Scrap Iron Means
VICTORY!

Dec. 11, 1941

BOND, STAMP SALES DOUBLED THIS WEEK

Sales of war Bonds and stamps reached a new high this week in Twentynine Palms — loyal, patriotic citizens of the community having come to the front in commemoration of Dec. 7. Postmaster Ben Steeg said that on Pearl Harbor day sale of bonds and stamps doubled that of any other day of the year.

Buy Defense Bonds



Ten cent stamps ultimately bought a \$25 Bond - books such as the one shown on this page could be found in every home.



UNITED STATES DEFENSE SAVINGS BONDS

ALL United States Defense Savings Bonds are direct obligations of the United States Government. The full faith and credit of the United States Government are pledged for payment of both principal and interest on these bonds.

Series E bonds are sold on a discount basis. For example, instead of paying \$25 for a \$25 bond and receiving interest at stated intervals, you pay \$18.75 for a bond of \$25 maturity value. Held for 10 years the bond matures and upon due surrender you will receive a Treasury check for \$25, a 33½ percent increase on your original investment, which is equivalent to an annual interest rate of 2.9 percent compounded semiannually.

Series E bonds are issued in \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500, and \$1,000 denominations, the purchase prices being, respectively, \$18.75, \$37.50, \$75, \$375, and \$750.

For full particulars concerning United States Defense Savings Bonds, apply to post offices or other designated sales agencies.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1942—O-436258A

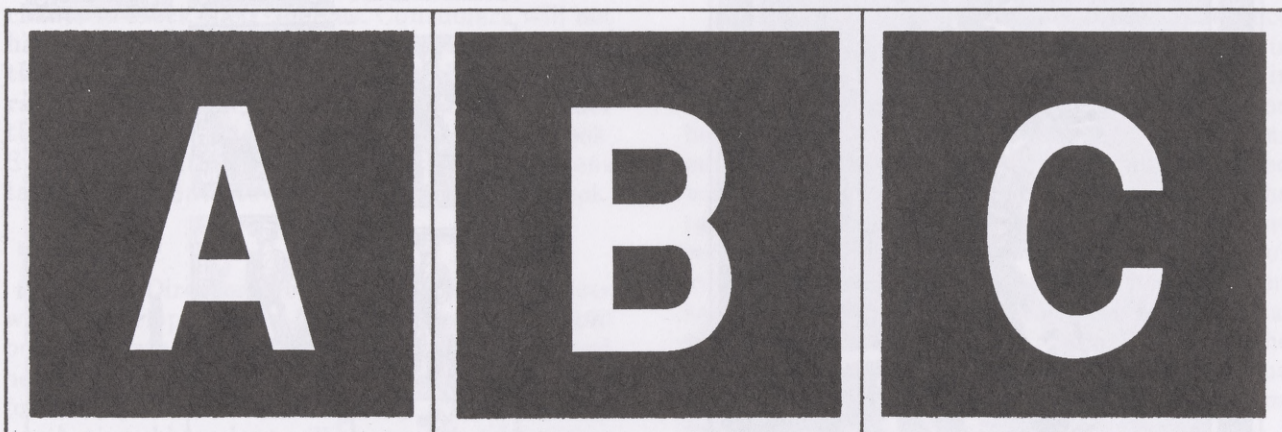
Fri., Dec. 11, 1943

Gas ration coupons must bear license number, State, under rules set down by the OPA, gas ration mileage coupons must bear on the reverse side in ink the vehicle license number for which it is issued and the name of the state in which the car is registered, points out David Poste, Chairman of the local ration advisory board.

Every registrant is required to follow these orders before the coupon may be used in purchase of gasoline.

This ruling serves as a safety measure, as a preventative against any other person using the coupons.

Applications for gasoline for non-highway purposes are now available at Mr. Poste's as are receipts for emergency transfer of gasoline. These latter are to be used only in case of acute emergency involving threat of life, health or valuable property.



Above are three windshield stickers for gas rationing. They are shown actual size, and were displayed on the right side of the windshield. The "C" sticker was red, the "B" sticker was green. The "A" coupon or sticker was either black or blue.

Below is a reproduction of the actual ration book issued to Loretta Swogger (now Loretta Fields). Below the cover are photos of three ration stamps. The back cover, on the right gives the direction for use. As can be seen, Loretta had a "B" Ration.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ★ ★ OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION
MILEAGE RATION IDENTIFICATION FOLDER

ISSUED	B	C	T	E-X	80
COMPLETE ADDRESS			VEHICLE LICENSE NO.		
<i>Loretta Swogger</i>			<i>2N 432</i>		
			STATE OF REGISTRATION		
			<i>Calif.</i>		
			YEAR MODEL AND MAKE		
			<i>36 Olds</i>		
VALID FROM DATE BELOW		EARLIEST RENEWAL DATE		EXPIRATION DATE	
<i>10-28-44</i>		<i>1-28-45</i>			
FLEET IDENTIFICATION OR CERTIFICATE OF WAR NECESSITY NUMBER (IF ANY)					

SERIAL NUMBERS OF COUPONS ISSUED
FROM: *5740903* TO: *5740906*, INCLUSIVE
COUPONS MUST BE KEPT WITH THIS FOLDER AT ALL TIMES



VIOLATORS OF THE GASOLINE RATIONING REGULATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO REVOCATION OF RATIONS AND CRIMINAL PROSECUTION UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES

BULK TRANSFER AND NON-OCCUPATIONAL BOAT USE

Bulk transfer authorized? (Yes or No)
Non-Occupational boat use authorized? (Yes or No)
Signed (for Board) *B. H.*
Board No. *283* County *Redlands* State *Calif.*

16-37784-1

RATION HOLDER MUST

Write at once in ink or indelible pencil on face of coupons as follows:
"B," "C," and "T." — License No. and state of registration.
FLEET CARS.—If fleet name or Certificate of War Necessity number is used on folder, write city and State of main office and fleet name or certificate number, instead of license number and State of registration.
"E" and "R."—Name and address of ration holder.

ANY PERSON FINDING LOST COUPONS SHOULD MAIL OR RETURN THEM AT ONCE TO THE NEAREST WAR PRICE AND RATIONING BOARD

POINTED COMMENTS

REMEMBER

Brown Stamps C, D, E, F

EXPIRE SATURDAY, OCT. 30

Sugar Stamps No's. 15-16

EXPIRE OCT. 31

Sugar Stamp No. 14

EXPIRES NOV. 1, MONDAY

Green Stamps A, B, C in Book 4

GOOD FOR PROCESSED FOODS

NOV. 1 to DEC. 20

Bagley's

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

TWENTYNINE PALMS

October 1943 - a reminder ad as seen in the Desert Trail. Most stores published such reminders so their customers could stay up to date with rationing and stamps.

Friday, April 2, 1943 ►

RATIONING

Canned Foods — Stamps D, E and F in Ration Book No. 2 good beginning April 1.

Meat, Butter, Etc. — Red stamps: A, good from March 29 to April 30; B, good from April 4 to April 30.

Coffee — Coupons 26 in Ration Book No. 1, good for one pound from March 22 to April 25.

Sugar — Coupon No. 12 in Ration Book No. 1, good for five pounds to May 31.

Tires — No restriction, or dates, on re-capping of passenger car tires with "passenger type camelback."

Shoes — Stamp No. 17 in Ration Book No. 1, good for one pair of shoes until June, 16.

Gasoline — "A" book coupons No. 5, good from March 22 through May 21, 1943.

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Gasoline — "A" book coupons No. 5, good from March 22 through May 21, 1943. ●

Friday, Feb. 25, 1944 ►

Kaizer Company buys Iron Chief Mine in 29 Palms 'Front Yard' — one of the richest iron deposits in the country has been purchased by Henry J. Kaiser Company from the Southern Pacific Land Co. for reportedly \$1,000,000, according to the deed filed in the Riverside County recorder's office. ●

Friday, Jan. 28, 1944

Chamber of Commerce seeks Garbage Collector.

Friday, Feb. 4, 1944

Twentynine Palms to be discontinued as Training Project, advises Sheppard.

The leading industry, the Air Academy, primary training base for air cadets, is scheduled to suspend operations, along with many other such type training bases throughout the country. ●

1943 ►

FIVE RATION STAMPS MADE VALID BY OPA

RED ration stamps E, F, G, H and J in ration book 2 will be used by consumers for buying meats, cheese, butter, other fats, oils and canned fish during the month of May, the office of price administration announced.

Stamps lettered E became valid April 25. The E stamps will be good during the last six days of April and all of May. The additional stamps, totaling 64 points, will be validated weekly as follows:

Date	Letter on	Expiration
Valid	Red Stamp	Date
May 2	F (16 points)	May 31
May 9	G (16 points)	May 31
May 16	H (16 points)	May 31
May 23	J (16 points)	May 31

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

50076DR

WAR RATION BOOK No. 3 Void if altered

Identification of person to whom issued: PRINT IN FULL

(First name) Marie (Middle name) (Last name)

Street number or rural route 511 East Park

City or post office Big Spring State Texas

AGE <u>9</u>	SEX <u>Female</u>	WEIGHT <u>50</u> Lbs.	HEIGHT <u>4</u> Ft. <u>4</u> In.	OCCUPATION
-----------------	----------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------	------------

SIGNATURE Mrs. Iva Honeycutt
(Person to whom book is issued. If such person is unable to sign because of age or incapacity, another may sign in his behalf.)

WARNING
This book is the property of the United States Government. It is unlawful to sell it to any other person, or to use it or permit anyone else to use it, except to obtain rationed goods in accordance with regulations of the Office of Price Administration. Any person who finds a lost War Ration Book must return it to the War Price and Rationing Board which issued it. Persons who violate rationing regulations are subject to \$10,000 fine or imprisonment, or both.

OPA Form No. 11-130

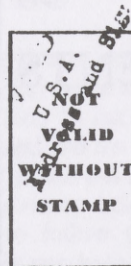
LOCAL BOARD ACTION

Issued by _____ (Local board number) _____ (Date)

Street address _____

City _____ State _____

(Signature of issuing officer)



27218 AC
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

BOOK FOUR

(middle, and last names)

(Signature)

The Ration Books, above & right were issued to Mrs. Iva Honeycutt, then a resident of Texas. Book four shown at right was issued to Betty Babcock. Both ladies are currently living in Yucca Valley.

READ BEFORE SIGNING

In accepting this book, I recognize that it remains the property of the United States Government. I will use it only in the manner and for the purposes authorized by the Office of Price Administration.

Void if Altered _____ (Signature)

It is a criminal offense to violate rationing regulations.

OPA Form B-145 16-35870-1

Below is a display of just a few of the many ration coupons. They came in all sizes, shapes and colors. There were stamps to fit almost any purpose.



July 10, 1945

Auto Owners Certificates
Issued to Buy Tires

Names of those persons in Twentynine Palms who have received certificates for new and retread tires during April and May have been released by the Redlands tire rationing board under whose jurisdiction this desert community falls. In April, auto owners of this valley were allowed a special quota of 11 tires and tubes issued to:

Constable Jack Cones, four tires, four tubes; Walter A. Godwin, two tires, two tubes; Walter W. Neugent, two tires, two tubes; M.C. Elliott, one tire, one tube; W. G. Kerr, one tire, one tube; John C. Meyer, one tire and one tube.

Also in April, the following were issued retreads: Harry G. Godwin, four; Charles E. Taylor, two; W.C. Helm, two; Raymond Owen, four; Millicent Eggenweiler, two.

During May, certificates for new passenger tires were granted Lieut. Archie Adair, one; Norman Thompson, one; new truck tires, John Hastie, two; Desert Chemical, seven.

The May quota of retreads went to Theodore Jones, two; Lieut. Adair, two; Norman Thompson, one; G. Edward Michels, one; Carl Leath, two.

March 18, 1951

Atomic Bomb Life Savers

By Maj. Gen. Walter M. Robertson USA (Ret.)
California Director of Civil Defense

What effect will an atomic attack have on food and water?

Do not use or dispose of any unpackaged food. It might be contaminated. Wait until it is examined by radiological monitors. If anything is badly contaminated, throwing it out merely makes it more widespread.

Wash the outside of canned or bottled goods thoroughly before opening.

Cooking utensils and tableware should be scrubbed clean to remove any possible invisible radioactive dusts.

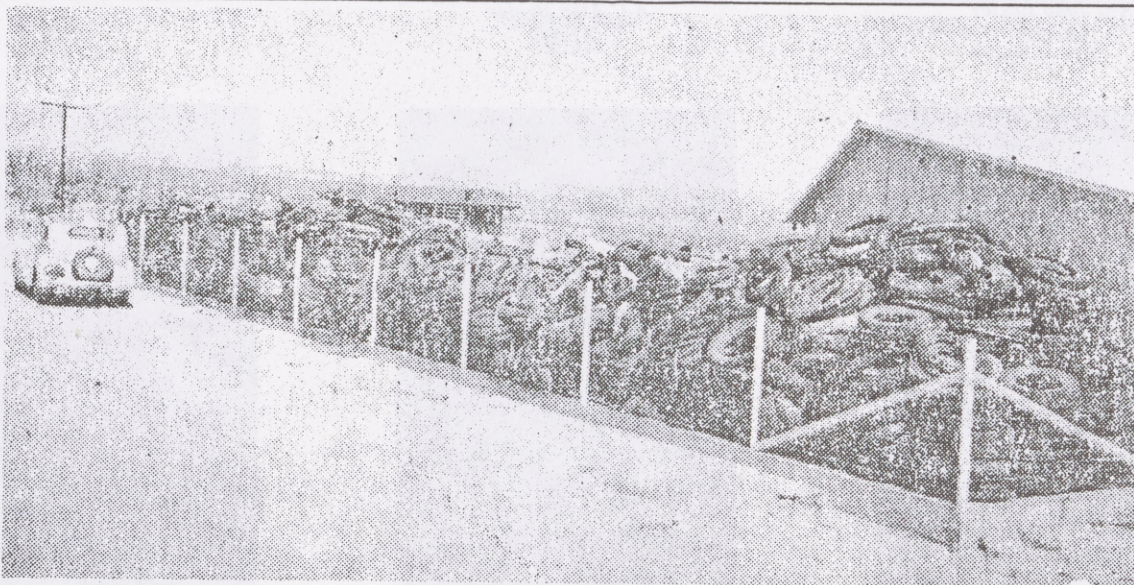
Food and utensils that were in closed drawers or tight cupboards will be safe.

There is little chance that water actually inside household pipes at the time of an attack will be contaminated.

Following attack, draw off a small supply and place it in clean, covered containers. As a precaution, always keep a few tightly closed containers of water.

Do not attempt general use of tap water until after official information the water system is safe.

Above is the "Post War" effect on the civilian population. The fear of the atomic bomb ran rampant through all segments of society. People built bomb shelters, arguing the philosophy of exclusion of neighbors & friends if the need arose.



Friday, July 17, 1942 — Patriotic Twentynine Palmers turned in over 62,075 pounds of rubber as shown above to the county highway maintenance station here. Frank Bagley, local chairman of the national rubber drive thanks local service station operators and citizens for their enthusiastic spirit of cooperation, making our quota far above the average.



*Lt. Com. Pete Royal
(Merchant Marine)*



*Ensign Jess Royal
(Merchant Marine)*



*A-S Luther Hill
(Army)*



*A-C John Bagley
(Army)*

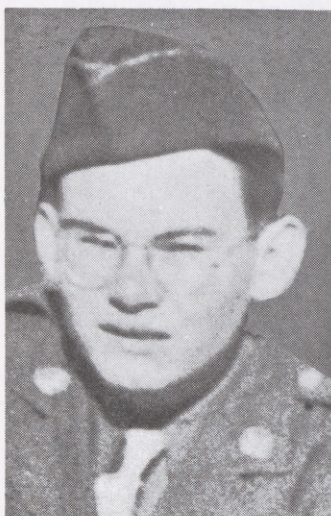


*A-C Alan Bagley
(Army)*

WWII 29 PALMS MEN IN SERVICE



Sgt. Eugene Curry (Army)



*P.F.C. Robert Graham
(Army)*



*A-C Jack King
(Army)*



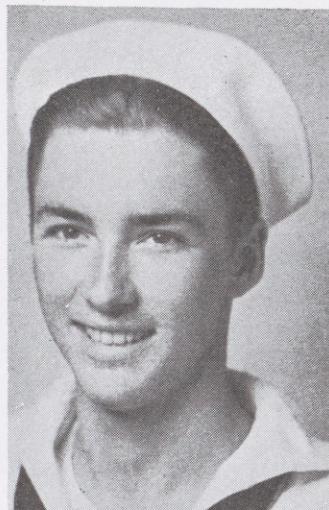
*Seamon 2-c Richard Kelly
(Navv)*



*Lt. William Krushat
(Army)*



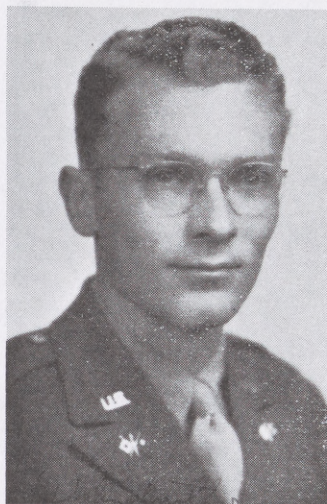
*Lt. Stanley Krushat
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*Lester Krushat
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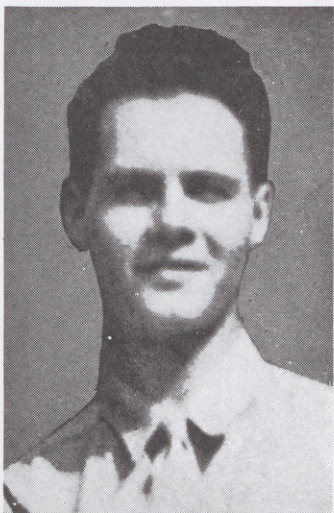
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*Lt. Brett Page
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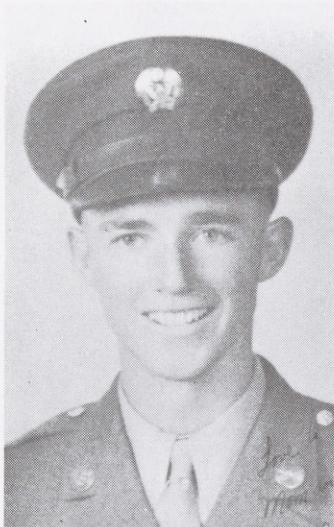
*P.F.C. James McGee
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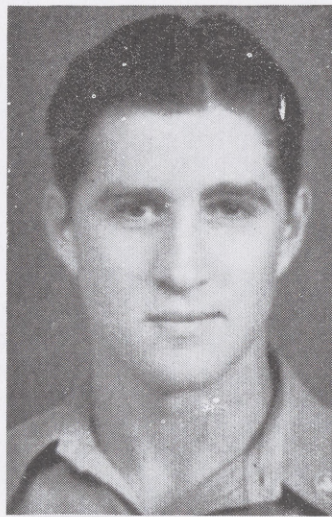
*Lt. Troy Martin
(Army)*



*1st Lt. Derald Martin
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*Lt. Harold Hockett
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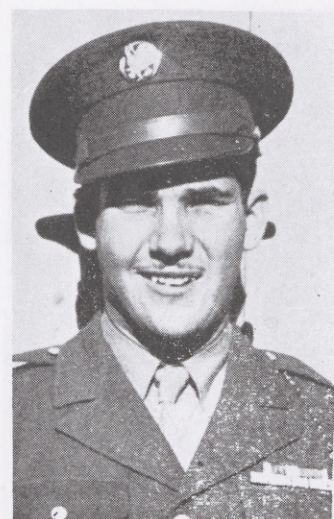
*Cpl. Earl Mayo
(Army)*



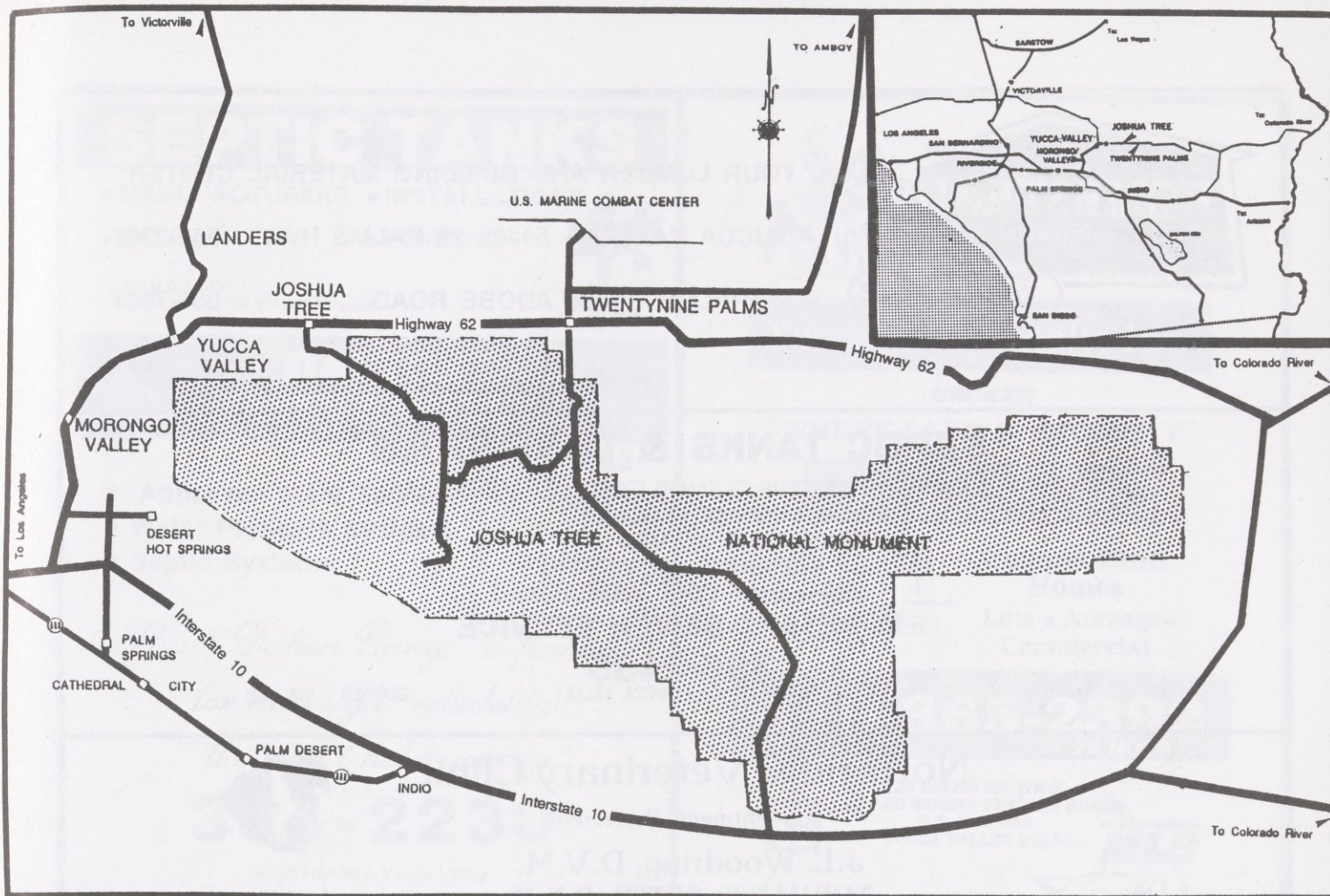
*Cpl. Richard Harmon
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*Seaman 2-c Robert Murphy
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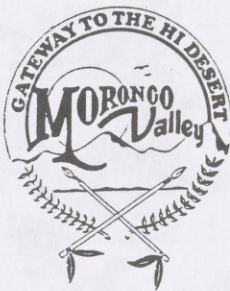
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Pomona First Federal Savings & Loan Association is the largest and oldest association headquartered in Southeastern Los Angeles County. The history of Pomona First Federal dates back to 1892.

In December of that year, the Mutual Building and Loan Association (predecessor of Pomona First Federal) was incorporated. The first location was on Thomas Street, Pomona, just south of the present Mall. Rent for the office was \$4.00 a month. At the end of the first year, assets totaled a little over \$8,900.00. The first loan was in the amount of \$500.00 on a house which still exists.

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There are presently 20 offices. The Yucca Valley office was opened September 12, 1966 at a temporary location. The branch moved to their present location at the corner of Twentynine Palms Highway and Joshua Lane in March 1970, and presently has savings deposits of more than \$85 million.

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Bob Lewis is the Manager of the Yucca Valley branch and has been an employee of Pomona First Federal since 1974.

Long-time employees of Pomona First Federal are Edie McDowell, Assistant Manager, and Anita Hillenbrand, Savings Officer.

Other members of the staff include Mary Cloutier, Betty Rocco, Donna Wise, Cindi Ribera, Lana Wilson, Juanita Lomeli, Diane Kazmar, Jacqueline Young, Durelle Williams, Delfina Moore and Fay Svoboda.

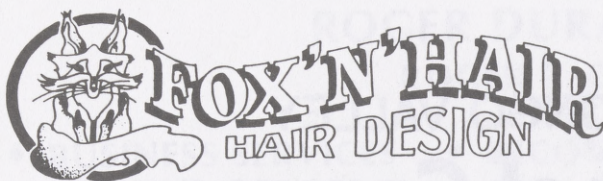
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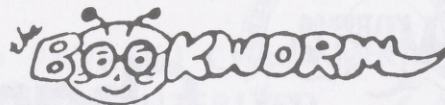


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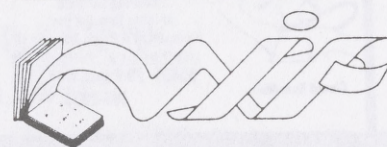
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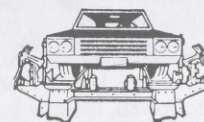
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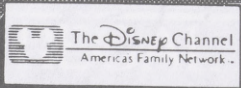
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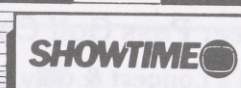
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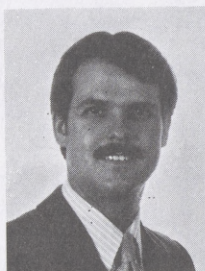


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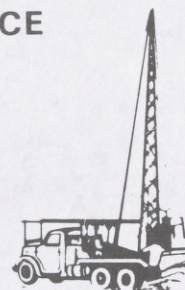


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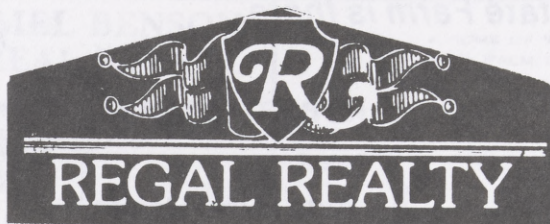
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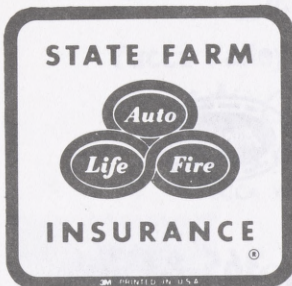
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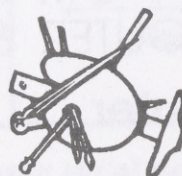
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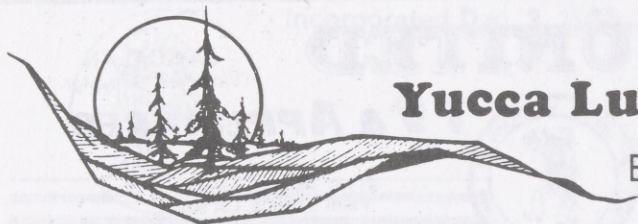
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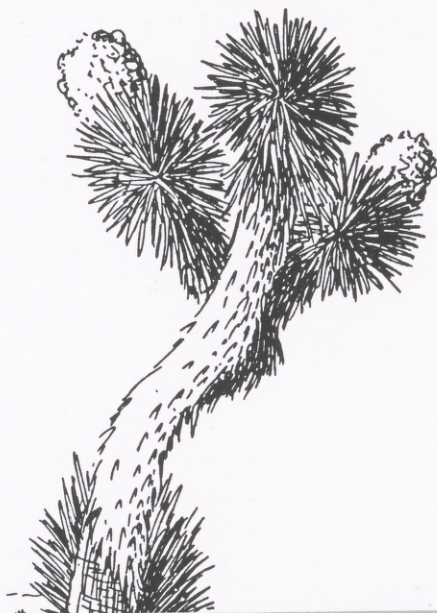
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The Armstrong Family Group Del Taco's are proud to be a part of the High Desert history. Located on the Highway in Yucca Valley and Twentynine Palms, Del Taco has been serving quality California style Mexican food in the valley since 1981. We invite you to stop in and enjoy great tacos, burritos, hamburgers, salads and delicious soft drinks. Del Taco Armstrong Family Group, Yucca Valley and Twentynine Palms.



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INDEPENDENT ESCROW LICENSEE

SINCE 1963

•Escrow •Service

ALL TYPES, NOTARY AND
TRUSTEE SALES
RECONVEYANCES



Back row left to right: Karen Coate, Laura Skidmore, Suzi Ferm, Vicki Dalton Bishop, Christine Flowers, Lorraine Palazuelos, Pat Benedict. Front row: Left to right: Patsy Skidmore, Bette Crayne, Cathy Robbins, Sue Ginter, Diane Murren, Kathy Lucey, Sara Hutson and Renee Godbey.

Hillcrest Escrow Corporation Staff

•Security

MEETS ALL STATE REQUIREMENTS
FOR INDEPENDENT LICENSEE

•Experience

ALL PERSONNEL FROM
3 TO 30 YEARS

YUCCA VALLEY
365-2318
7248-A JOSHUA LANE

JOSHUA TREE
366-3775
61693-B 29 PALMS HIGHWAY

TWENTYNINE PALMS
367-9156
73644 29 PALMS HIGHWAY